

Pakistan rejects Afghan call

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Pakistan said in a letter published here Monday that a request last week by Afghanistan for a Security Council meeting to deal with alleged Pakistani aggression was untenable. No date has yet been set for such a meeting. "The situation inside Afghanistan neither involves a dispute between Afghanistan and any other country nor is it a situation that endangers the maintenance of international peace and security," Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told Security Council President Alexander Belousov of the Soviet Union. He said it was a purely internal matter in which the Afghan people were "resisting the rule of an illegal and unrepresentative regime" that was imposed on them by external military intervention. "Therefore, the request of the Kabul regime for a Security Council debate is untenable," the foreign minister said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Sudan optimistic over peace talks

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudan said Monday it had held positive talks with anti-government rebels which were likely to lead to peace in the troubled south of the country. "The talks were most positive. I would sincerely say that the efforts towards peace in Sudan are now on the right track," said Taisir Mohammad Ahmad Ali, leader of a government delegation which met the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Saturday. He gave no details of the talks. But he said the delegation gave the SPLA a letter from Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi and a copy of a cabinet resolution last week adopting a peace agreement signed by the rebels and the Democratic Unionist Party, a partner in Mahdi's coalition government, last November. The agreement, which calls for the abrogation of Sudan's military treaties with other countries and a halt in the implementation of Islamic laws, had previously been rejected by Mahdi's Umma Party.

Volume 14 Number 4059

AMMAN TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1989, RAMADAN 5, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Arafat thanks King, stresses strong ties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a cable from Palestine President Yasser Arafat thanking the King and expressing appreciation for congratulating him on his being elected president of Palestine.

"In the name of the Palestine government and people and on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as well as in my own name, I express to Your Majesty and to the government and people of Jordan my sincerest gratitude and appreciation for your congratulations," Arafat said in his cable.

"It is a serious and major responsibility that I have undertaken and I pray that God may help me shoulder it," the cable said. "I have deep faith and hope that the leaders of the Arab Nation will help me shoulder this heavy burden and assist the Palestinians to regain their freedom," Arafat said.

Arafat reaffirmed the Palestinian people's determination under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, "to carry on the struggle and the intifada to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and to set up the Palestinian independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

"Nothing can discourage the Palestinians from pursuing their just struggle; nor can Israel's acts of terrorism dissuade the Palestinians from their endeavour to end the occupation and sufferings."



HM King Hussein

Yasser Arafat

Arafat voiced the PLO's appreciation to the government of Jordan for its continued assistance and backing for the Palestinian people and stressed that "the Palestinians are keen on maintaining the strongest brotherly relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its people."

Arafat wished the King continued health and happiness and success in his leadership of the Jordanian people towards further progress and prosperity.

Rifai briefs banks on outcome of talks with IMF team

IMF finds dinar exchange rate realistic, appropriate

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team has found that the current exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar is realistic and appropriate and there is no need for any adjustments, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has announced.

Rifai, addressing directors-general of banks and financial institutions Sunday evening, also announced that the government would shortly sign a letter of intent with the IMF to undertake a medium-term programme of economic adaptation programme.

"The programme includes adopting financial, monetary and investment policies that aim at achieving a balanced growth in the economy through lowering the budget deficit, improving the balance of payments and boosting foreign exchange reserves," Rifai was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Briefing the meeting on two weeks of talks with a visiting IMF delegation, Rifai said the programme also aims at creating the opportune climate for savings and investments to stimulate income-generating projects and increase

Jordan to sign letter of intent on economic adaptation programme

foreign currency earnings through boosted exports and raise the Kingdom's tourism revenues and expatriate remittances.

Rifai said the IMF delegation praised the corrective economic and financial measures and policies adopted by the government as steps in the right direction. He said the team found that the exchange value of the dinar was realistic and appropriate and there was no need to change it.

Rifai underlined the important role which commercial banks can play, especially under the present circumstances, by mobilising national savings and directing them towards productive and meaningful investments through the private sector and by enabling citizens to obtain their legitimate needs of foreign currency. The bank heads assured the prime minister of their commitment toward abiding by the current exchange rate of the dinar. Agreement was reached at the meeting that the board of the

(Continued on page 2)

ACC premiers begin Baghdad talks

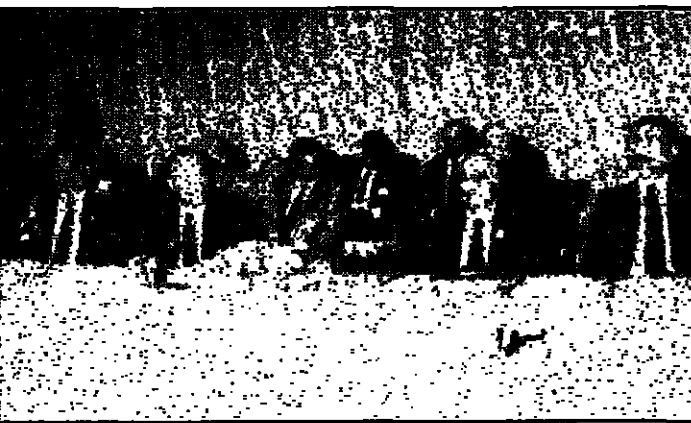
King sends message to Iraqi president

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Monday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region. The message was delivered to the Iraqi president by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Prime ministers of the four-state Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) began talks in Baghdad Monday to prepare for next month's summit of the newly-founded regional economic bloc comprising Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen.

Addressing the opening session of the two-day meeting, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister and member of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) Taha Yassin Ramadan voiced the resolve by the four founding states to provide all necessary means to develop the ACC and to shoulder their full responsibility for fulfilling the Arab Nation's goals.

(Continued on page 2)



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday leads the Jordanian delegation to meetings of prime ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad (Petra wirephoto)

Shipping under attack in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Muslims warned France Monday against sending aid to rightist ports and attacks were reported on two ships serving Lebanese harbours.

Many Lebanese expressed fears that the arrival of two French aid ships, expected off Lebanon Wednesday, would spark a ferocious new round of battles between mostly Christian rightist forces and rival militias.

"The army warns of the grave dangers of insisting on docking the ships at the Joumeh and Zouk ports... it warns against this and holds those behind it responsible for the results," the civilian-led section of the army said in a statement, naming two rightist-run ports north of Beirut.

"The army command hopes the French authorities will respond to our suggestions in order to preserve the safety of the ships and their crews," it said.

In Paris, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was not yet known where the ships, a tanker and a navy hospital vessel, would dock.

The Lebanese statement suggested the ships, carrying medical supplies and badly needed fuel oil, dock at the northern port of Tripoli.

Muslim leaders have accused

France, the former colonial power, of taking sides with Lebanon's Christians, a charge echoed by Iran. Paris says the aid is purely humanitarian.

Lloyd's shipping intelligence reported that a Maltese-flag ship, the Quasar, was hit by a rocket just outside rightist-run Beirut port Monday. It said the rocket made a 1.2-metre hole in the hull.

Guns also fired sporadic rocket barrages onto the beaches of Lebanon's Christian heartland Monday in what police described as a rehearsal for shelling the French aid ships.

Forces of army commander Michel Aoun struck back with howitzers, blasting west Beirut's residential districts of 'Ain Mreisseh and Wadi Abu Jamil, police said.

Six people were wounded in west Beirut, said the police spokesman.

Police said the retaliation was directed against Syrian multi-barrelled rocket launchers set up in the two neighbourhoods as well as the Murr Tower, a 40-storey unfinished skyscraper the Syrians use.

The exchanges defied for a fifth day a ceasefire called by the Arab League to halt the worst civil war flare-up in four years.

France plays new role, page 2



Two Lebanese children in the town of Shoufat south of Beirut stand near a big hole in the wall of their house caused by savage shelling.

Troops disperse Tbilisi gathering; toll rises

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soldiers fired into the air to break up a gathering Monday at Tbilisi State University, where about 1,000 people congregated to discuss the Georgian nationalist strife that has left 18 people dead, witnesses quoted by the AP said.

A general strike shut down some stores, factories and mass transit in the Georgian capital Monday, and residents donned black ribbons in a sign of mourning and protest.

The death toll in the weekend clashes between troops and demonstrators in Tbilisi has risen to at least 18, according to a Soviet spokesman.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said 10 women and six men were killed when troops broke up a demonstration in the early hours of Sunday morning. Some 200 people were injured.

"Among those taken to hospital with serious injuries one or two more women have since died," he added.

Gerasimov was addressing a regular news briefing as troops

and tanks manned key points in Tbilisi to prevent a repeat of the violence.

The unrest continued despite official calls for calm, a ban on public gathering, a curfew and patrols by soldiers riding tanks.

The ruling politburo dispatched Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Communist Party personnel chief Georgy P. Razumovsky to Tbilisi to oversee efforts to restore calm, Gerasimov said.

Shevardnadze, a Georgian who once headed the republic's Communist Party and the Interior Ministry that oversees police, had just returned from London. Gerasimov said he had to postpone a trip scheduled Wednesday to East Germany because of the unrest in his homeland.

As many as 1,000 people ignored the restrictions and massed at the university at midday to "to inform each other about what was going on and decide what to do next," said Zurab Zhankarashvili, a member of the Helsinki watch group who was at the gathering.

"The military stood there with their tanks and frightened the people off. They shot in the air," he said.

Sergei Dandurov, a nationalist activist who was also at the meeting, said some troops jumped out of armoured personnel carriers and began firing into the air. The crowd scattered after about 30 minutes, with some people fleeing into a university building, he said.

A spokeswoman at the Georgian news agency Gruzinform told Reuters by telephone from Tbilisi she believed the official death toll of 16 to be out of date and said lists of the dead compiled by activists had reached about 30.

Gerasimov said Tbilisi was generally calm, with no marches or demonstrations. Schools were shut most enterprises were working, despite calls for strikes.

"Some factories opened late, due to groups of young men who picketed transport points," he said.

The Gruzinform spokeswoman said no buses or trolleybuses were

running in the city, although the metro was working normally. She said tanks and armoured personnel carriers were stationed at key areas and helicopters were circling overhead.

Georgian officials contacted by telephone from Moscow stressed most people were going about their normal business Monday, although troops were dispersing groups of people gathering at street corners.

"There were several attempts to hold gatherings, but it was explained to the people that they should disperse. No marches or demonstrations have been organised," a spokesman for the Georgian Foreign Ministry told Reuters.

He said a special commission had been set up to investigate the clashes. An unspecified number of demonstrators were detained.

Gerasimov said an official day of mourning would be held Tuesday. The Gruzinform spokeswoman said many people were wearing black to show respect for the dead.

Jordan probes potential dioxin threat

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alerted by a recent warning which appeared in an American magazine, the Ministry of Health has launched an investigation into the possible carcinogenic threat posed by cartons used for milk, juices and other beverages produced in Jordan.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas told the Jordan Times: "I do not know about the matter. But it will take time (before definite conclusions are reached)."

Suleiman Qubain, an official at the primary health care department of the ministry which is involved in the investigations, said: "The issue is under study now. We are taking it very seriously."

Qubain said the Ministry of Health had already contacted the World Health Organisation (WHO) for more information and further consultations about the potential threat, which was reported by Newsweek magazine in a late March issue.

According to Qubain, the results of Jordan's investigation will be completed in about two weeks, but will not be published until after full consultations are made with the WHO.

The Newsweek report alerted consumers to the dangers of the bleaching agent chlorine when applied to remove a variety of impurities from paper used to manufacture cartons. It said one of the byproducts of the chemical interaction was a carcinogenic (cancer-producing or cancer-inciting) substance known as dioxin.

Hassan Al Sandi, director-general of the Department of Metrology and Specifications, said that no order had been issued yet banning the import of paper cartons into Jordan and the department was not taking any action in the issue. He pointed out that such cartons were not banned by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He also noted that the Kodex Alimentaris — an annual listing of substances and material posing health hazards — did not contain any danger-related reference to such cartons.

No authoritative official of the two dairy products in Jordan — the Jordan Dairy Products Company in Russeifa and the Danish Jordan Dairy Products company in Begaa — was available for comment on the issue. A junior official at one of the companies said he was unaware of the dioxin threat.

Israel bars Palestinian youngsters from Al Aqsa

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel will ban Palestinian youths from entering Jerusalem Fridays in response to violent clashes after prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque last week, the police ministry announced Monday.

"The police will not allow young men into Jerusalem from the West Bank and Gaza," spokesman Rafi Levy said after Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev reviewed "security measures" with senior officials.

Hundreds of demonstrators clashed with Israeli police outside the mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, last Friday. A police station was stoned and rocks crashed down on the heads of Jews praying at the waiting wall below.

Twelve people were injured in the most serious clashes for a year at the Haram Al Sharif.

The Islamic Waqf Trust, which has custody over the area, said Monday it regretted the violence.

"Nobody is happy about it because this is a holy place, not a place for violence," said Adnan Al Hussein, general director of the trust which administers Muslim holy sites.

He said Muslims who raised Palestinian flags and burned an Israeli flag last Friday, the first day of Ramadan, did not intend to stone Jews at the waiting wall.

"Maybe the police tried to throw bombs at the worshippers

and maybe the worshippers threw stones towards the police. If it landed on the worshippers below, it was an accident," he said.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, hinted that, unless Muslim authorities took action, the occupation forces would have to consider taking responsibility for the Haram Al Sharif complex out of their hands.

Worshippers and tourists at the wall fled in panic as stones and clouds of teargas came flying over the ramparts from the shrine above. Those injured also included journalists and policemen.

Police arrested 37 of the protesters, some of whom came from Gaza. Violence in the area has been rare in the 16 months of the Palestinian uprising.

Troops shot and wounded four protesters during clashes Monday with stone-throwers in the Gaza Strip's Khan Younis and Rafah refugee camps, hospital officials said. An 18-year-old youth in Khan Younis was severely beaten and underwent surgery.

In the West Bank, Palestinian villagers said the army barred them from entering the town of Hebron, but gave no reason.

A Palestinian was shot dead in a village in the West Bank Monday morning but reports differed as to the circumstances.

A doctor at Al Ithhad hospital in Nablus told Reuters that Khaled Mahmoud Antari, 28,

Gunman kills Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A man in an army-style uniform fired more than a dozen rounds from an Israeli-made Uzi submachine gun Monday, killing one Palestinian and wounding three other Arabs near the old walled city, police said.

After the shooting, the gunman dashed across the street into the Mamilla quarter, an area of deserted buildings and shops that has been scheduled for demolition.

Police sealed off the area and began a search.

The attack occurred about 7:40 p.m. (1740 GMT) at the Jaffa Gate, one of the main entrances to the old walled city and one used frequently by tourists.

Police said passing motorists about 20 to 30 metres away reported the gunman was wearing a dark, uniform-style shirt.

Israel Radio and TV quoted reports as saying the gunman was wearing an Israeli army uniform.

was shot in the neck in nearby Deir Sharaf and died in the emergency room.

Shamir wants Arab payment, willing to 'listen to anything'

CHICAGO (Agencies) — Arab states should help Israel pay to "establish a human condition" for nearly two million Palestinians living in the occupied territories, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday.

"Israel doesn't have the financial means to solve all these problems" in the refugee camps, Shamir said at a news conference during a day-long trip to Chicago to promote a Middle East peace plan he proposed last week.

"I couldn't substitute for a political solution, but it could improve the climate," he said.

Shamir also said Israel would listen to any proposal brought to the negotiating table under his plan proposed last week to U.S. officials in Washington.

Shamir met with President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and other top officials, who generally supported his proposal for elections and limited autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir estimated it would cost \$1 billion to improve conditions in the camps, saying there was a need to "organise to provide housing and to establish a human condition for their life there."

He did not detail where else the money should be spent.

Asked whether Israel would consider negotiating land for peace, Shamir said land was not the issue now, but the Zionist state would listen to any proposal.

"We will listen to anything," he said. "Both parties will listen to all proposals that are brought to the table of negotiations."

Shamir was quoted Monday as saying he was willing to discuss the participation in the proposed elections of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories.

An Israeli government official said despite negative Palestinian reaction to Shamir's election plan, Israel still believed it was possible to overcome the obstacles to balloting in the West Bank and Gaza.

The official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said those elected may consult with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during any negotiations. "No one can think the PLO is an element you can totally ignore."

The official PLO news agency Wafa quoted an unnamed PLO spokesman as calling Shamir's plan "nothing but a reactivation of the self-autonomy scheme of the Camp David accord which the PLO and our Palestinian people already have rejected."

The spokesman was quoted as demanding an Israeli withdrawal and U.N. supervision of occupied land before any election.

Shamir is also urging a two-year "test period" of "self-rule" for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza before commencing negotiations on the future of the territories.

"I personally believe it's possible," Shamir said, eventually to resolve sovereignty over the occupied land.

Shamir said he envisions negotiations in two stages with the Palestinians. The first talks, he said, would be designed to achieve "an interim arrangement of self-rule for the Palestinians living in these territories, for a few years."

"This will be a transitional period, a test period, in which we will see if we can live together, walk together, cooperate," he said. "And then after this period, on the third year, we will start a process of negotiations about the permanent status of these territories."

"It will be a full self rule," for perhaps five years, while a permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is negotiated.

"It will have all the power of a government except security and foreign relations," Shamir said. "There will be some problems they will have to settle with the authorities of Israel."

"We don't see the PLO as a factor in the peace initiative," he said. "But we will try to negotiate with Palestinian Arabs that are interested in peace."

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Spiritually-inspired Iran left with no spiritual heir

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI — Iran is now a spiritually-led country without a natural spiritual heir to revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Western and Iranian political analysts say.

No mere politician can fill the gap left by Khomeini's removal of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri March 28 as his designated successor, they say.

The decision, analysts said, was not so much due to a clash between liberals and radicals — Western terms which are hard to apply in Iran — but because Khomeini's guiding vision was under threat.

They said his vision of an ideal Islamic state led by the clergy was the starting point to any understanding of the often complicated political manoeuvring in Tehran.

Both diplomatic and independent analysts predicted that Khomeini, now aged 86, would rule without a named heir for the foreseeable future.

He would be assisted by half a dozen executive leaders, in-

cluding parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Chief Justice Mousavi Ardebili and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

But the analysts said it so far looked unlikely that any of these leaders could establish overall moral authority before the ageing Khomeini died.

"We have a loser at the moment, but we do not have any winners," said one Western diplomat in the Gulf after Montazeri's removal.

Montazeri, 66, most recently dubbed a moderate, typifies the dangers of labelling Iranian leaders. A strong supporter of social and legal justice, he is also a firm backer of Islamic revolutionary movements abroad.

"He has been called a liberal, a moderate, a radical, a theologian — he is all of the above and none of them," the Western diplomat said.

Iranian political writers have hailed the politicisation of the clergy, previously a reluctant power broker in Iran, as Khomeini's greatest achievement.

But Khomeini's problem is

that, apart from Montazeri, there is no other candidate with the right spiritual credentials and political preeminence to head such a theocracy.

"There is no one else," said an Iranian analyst based in the Gulf, who declined to be identified. "No one can maintain the state under the present conditions as Khomeini himself."

Firmly at the helm

Senior Iranian officials, explaining Montazeri's removal to the people at mass prayer meetings, tried to allay public worries about the uncertainty of the future by stressing that Khomeini was firmly at the helm.

This went against Khomeini's efforts since 1985 to lower his profile and delegate more responsibilities in a sort of rehearsal for government after his death in a system not dependent on his person.

Iranian officials and media began calling Montazeri a grand ayatollah, meaning a recognised Islamic teacher of the

highest authority, at about the time he was named as Khomeini's successor.

He lost the title unceremoniously after his resignation, but its unofficial adoption had indicated that no one with less than top religious credentials would be qualified for Iran's top job.

Rafsanjani, for example, is a mere hojatoleslam, only one above the initial stages of canonical law.

Beside Khomeini, there are four other known grand ayatollahs — three in Iran, one in Iraq — and the analysts said none of them had shown any interest in taking on a political role.

Montazeri had showed signs that he preferred the clergy to act as politicians and more as traditional guides, they said.

The ambiguity in his status was highlighted last week when the daily Ettelaat, a paper run by a close aide of Khomeini, said Montazeri's political failings should not cast doubts on his religious seniority.

Analysts said Montazeri's fall reflected Khomeini's con-

cern that popular support for the Islamic revolution, fanned by the flames of nationalism during the eight-year war with Iraq, was turning to popular apathy.

"Economic hardships, and the exhaustion of 10 years of revolution, made people apathetic," said a Western diplomat.

"Khomeini is now most afraid of moderate ideas undermining Islamic ideals," said an Arab diplomat.

Root of fears

The analysts said roots of Khomeini's fears about Montazeri were closely connected with three men.

Western diplomats said Montazeri had held talks with Mehdi Bazargan, a former prime minister and leading liberal spokesman who appeared earlier this year to be making a comeback after years on the sidelines.

Montazeri was also a friend of Kazem Sami, a former health minister murdered last November who was known to favour secular government and whose name had been men-



Ali Montazeri, son-in-law of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, was named as a possible candidate for premiership, they said.

Iran frees 70 PoWs

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran says it freed Monday 70 ailing or disabled Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) to mark the 10th anniversary of the Islamic republic, but that four of them refused to be repatriated and requested political asylum.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency said those flown home via Turkey included an officer — a non-commissioned officer.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, gave no other details and there was no immediate comment from the International Red Cross which sponsors such operations.

Iranian officials had said 70 sick or wounded prisoners would be freed to mark the Islamic republic foundation April 1. It was not clear why the move was held up until Monday.

April 1 marks the day Iranians voted by an overwhelming majority to abolish the monarchy and set up an Islamic state. The referendum was held two months after the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was overthrown by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolution in 1979.

A United Nations-sponsored ceasefire took hold last Aug. 20, halting eight years of hostilities between Iran and Iraq. Since then, the two countries have freed 2,295 prisoners, all of them either disabled or ailing.

Bahrain paper punished for 3-in-a-bed report

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain's Arabic-language newspaper Akhbar Al Khaleej was suspended Monday for two days allegedly for fabricating a report about an unnamed Bahraini polygamist forcing his two wives to share his bed.

The suspension was ordered by the Information Ministry which complained that the report was "false and unfounded... an affront to public sentiment."

The paper April 3 prominently played a purported court case in which a Syrian woman had complained about her Bahraini husband forcing her and his second wife to sleep with him at the same time. It identified the second wife only as a Bahraini.

According to the paper, the court granted a divorce on grounds that the practice of polygamy under Islam should not be abused in such manners that would cause any of the wives to suffer.

But the husband obtained a religious ruling from an unspecified Gulf country that annulled the divorce and forced the Syrian woman to return to him, the paper said.

The alleged ruling insisted that any Muslim husband has a right to enjoy his wives en masse in bed.

"Can a Muslim husband who is entitled to four wives under Islamic Sharia sleep with all of them at the same time?" asked Akhbar Al Khaleej's English-language sister paper, Gulf Daily News.

Three days later, the Ministry of Justice issued a statement rejecting the newspaper report as false and insisting that no such case was ever handled by a Bahraini court.

This touched off an uproar last Friday, when the Adhdeh Mosque prayer leader in a congregational sermon decried the report as "apostates, communist atheists and degenerate," demanding that they either repent or face the punishment of Islam.

He asked that all non-Bahraini journalists involved in the report be deported, strongly indicating that, failing to repent, the others should be put to death.

This clearly echoed the "death edict" that Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini recently handed down against the Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie for insulting Islam and the Prophet Mohammad in his book "The Satanic Verses."

Akhbar Al Khaleej editors insisted the report was true, dismissing the Justice Ministry's rebuttal as an attempt to avoid explosive religious controversies with neighbouring countries and fundamentalist scholars.

New French role in Lebanon triggers fierce controversy

By Diana Abdallah
Reuters

BEIRUT — France has emerged as the only Western state playing an active role in Lebanon with the imprint of its 20-year mandate between the world wars still visible.

But French support for Lebanon's mostly Christian rightists in their confrontation with rival forces and Syrian troops has been strongly criticised by Syria and its allies as colonialist.

Lebanese were divided over France's efforts to end renewed civil war violence sparked off a month ago when army commander Major-General Michel Aoun vowed to expel Syria.

Some welcomed it while others saw it as a revival of France's colonial role as traditional guardian of Lebanon's Christian minority since the 19th century.

"It is a revival of the old colonial history in protecting minorities," said an editorial in the Al Safir daily.

France's socialist government has issued a flurry of statements in a month of fierce artillery duels

between Aoun's mainly Christian troops and Syrian gunners and their allies.

It seemed to favour a U.N. Security Council meeting on the Lebanese crisis and Syria's withdrawal.

Paris sent a hospital vessel and an oil tanker due to arrive Wednesday on what it terms a humanitarian mission. Army units confronting Aoun's forces warned the ships to stay away from Lebanon.

French President Francois Mitterrand said his country would not accept that any minority in Lebanon should be sacrificed.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said the French campaign stemmed from "illogical historical background."

France became directly involved in Lebanon in 1918 when it occupied coastal areas. Two years later it administered greater Lebanon and its mandate lasted until independence in 1943.

Its intervention in 1919, after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, gave Maronite Christians more power over Muslims.

The Muslims and Christians later joined to end the mandate.

French political, military and cultural influence remains strong in Lebanon. Most Christians speak French better than Arabic. Most schools teach French as a first language.

Lebanese admit they regard France as their second home and refer to it affectionately as their "tender mother."

The Lebanese, particularly the Maronites, have friends and influence in France and thousands went to live there when the civil war broke out in 1975.

France's new campaign to "defend" Lebanon's Christians came after it secured freedom for some eight French nationals taken hostage by pro-Iranian radicals.

The last of its hostages were released in May last year.

Iran radio Sunday, quoted Iranian Parliamentarian Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying French action rang alarm bells.

A Beirut newspaper said Monday the French embassy warned its citizens against going to west Beirut and urged those living there to take security precau-



A scene from the war-shattered Lebanese capital where renewed clashes have been raging for the past four weeks (Sygma photo).

Afghans score limited success in conventional war

By Bryan Wilder
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Rebels have found only limited success so far as they try conventional tactics for the first time in their struggle to oust Afghanistan's communist government after a decade of hit-and-run attacks.

Victory still appears remote in the guerrillas' first major offensive since Soviet forces ended nine years of involvement in Afghanistan Feb. 15.

The rebels, who have been backed primarily by the United States and Pakistan, began attacking the eastern city of Jalalabad, about 70 kilometres from the Pakistan border, on March 6.

They surprised their critics — and government troops — by swiftly taking the city's heavily fortified garrison at Samarkhel.

However, their advance has bogged down in bloody trench warfare reminiscent of World War I. The rebels advance, shoot, then retreat under withering artillery and aerial bombardment.

The rebels — Mujahadeen — have laid siege to all sides of Jalalabad, but communist troops have tenaciously held onto the city and its airport.

Its fall would give the insurgents their first urban foothold in Afghanistan and would open an important supply route for an assault on Kabul, the capital about 120 kilometres to the west.

The departing Soviet army left key Afghan cities in communist hands, but the rebels reportedly control more than 90 per cent of the rugged countryside.

"After the initial success, we are now in a stalemate," said a frustrated Rahim Wardak, battlefield commander of the Mujahadeen's Jalalabad offensive and member of the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, one of several rebel factions.

"The capture of Samarkhel was due to an attack by three Mujahadeen groups who attacked Samarkhel's rear, taking the enemy by surprise," Wardak said in a recent interview.

"We should be applying the same tactics (on Jalalabad) instead of the frontal attacks. The Mujahadeen do not have enough firepower — artillery and tanks, and no airpower — all necessary to support ground assaults in order to capture such a heavily defended city conventionally."

Although nominally in command, Wardak does not have complete control of the estimated 12,000 to 14,000 rebels of various groups hammering away at the city with rockets, mortars and small arms. That appears to be part of the problem.

"Resistance military efforts around Jalalabad have been impeded by the lack of coordination between Mujahadeen of different parties," said a Western diplomatic source in Islamabad, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The groups include moderates and Muslim fundamentalists of the Pakistan-based seven-party Islamic unity of Afghan Mujahadeen and independent guerrilla bands based inside Afghanistan.



Afghan rebels control a key road linking the capital Kabul with Logar province (Sygma photo).

ACC premiers open talks

Continued from page 1

Ramadan stressed the importance of the meetings, saying that they "constitute a real beginning for drawing up practical formulas for achieving the ACC's objectives."

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai thanked Iraq for hosting the meetings and voiced hope that the deliberations would produce great results, thus fulfilling the aspirations and objectives that the leaders of the four states voiced upon signing the ACC Charter in February.

Rifai proposed that the session begin with discussing and approving the meetings' agenda. Following discussions, the four prime ministers approved the agenda as prepared by Iraq.

Later Monday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein hosted an iftar banquet in honour of the heads of the delegations taking part in the meetings.

In a statement upon his arrival here earlier in the day, Rifai said that the four ACC prime ministers would discuss matters related to the council's financial and organisational structures as well as its general secretariat and decide on a number of issues and prepare a report to the heads of state of the four countries.

Rifai, who was met Ramadan and senior Iraqi officials, expressed hope that the recommendations would benefit the whole Arab Nation.

The prime minister stressed the importance of the Baghdad meeting, which, he said, will lay the ground for the ACC's general work and pave the way for Arab economic integration.

Rifai reports on IMF talks

Continued from page 1

Association of Banks in Jordan (ABJ) should hold a meeting to discuss these matters and to provide better banking services to the public.

The outcome of the ABJ's meeting and recommendations and resolutions that ensue will be submitted to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

At the end of the meeting, the bank heads expressed appreciation to the prime minister for his briefing on the outcome of negotiations with the IMF. They said that the results would have very beneficial effects on the investment climate in Jordan and would boost confidence in the national economy, Petra said.

They also voiced their support for the government's economic policies and corrective measures.

The meeting was attended by CBJ Governor Hussein Qasem.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
14:30	Koran
14:55	Children programmes
16:15	Cooking programme
16:30	Arabic series
17:20	Health programme
18:00	Religious period
18:20	Ramadan contest
18:35	Arabic series
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Hebrew
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Religious series
22:25	Riddle
23:00	News in Arabic
23:15	Arabic play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Années d'Illusion
19:00	News in French
19:15	Strangers
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Hit Squad
21:10	Piece of Cake
22:00	News in English
22:20	Hunter
PRAYER TIMES	
03:48	Fajr
05:08	Sunrise (Saarje)
11:37	Dhuhr
15:12	'Asr
18:05	Maghrib

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
19:26 'isha	
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifeth Tel. 810740	
Armenian Episcopate of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 623757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 826005	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 812644	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Unstable weather conditions will prevail. So it will be partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for local thunder showers and winds will be southwester-	
ly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	14/28
Aqaba	20/34
Deserts	16/31
Jordan Valley	18/34
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hisham Abu Arqoub	893122
Dr. Daoud Samhour	778526
Dr. Musa Bashir	615487
Dr. Joseph Issa	770560
Yaoum pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairouth pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yaoum pharmacy	640945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Anis Abu 'Idah	(—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ziyad Hawatneh	(—)
Khaliliah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	192, 621111, 637777
Police	6230993
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	65639091
Public Security Department	669131
Civil Defence Department	661111
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Rescue	630341
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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ASSAD RECEIVES BRITISH COUNCIL DIRECTOR: Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad had a meeting here Monday with the Director of the British Council in Amman Miles Roddis to discuss Jordanian-British cooperation in education and scientific fields. The question of awarding scholarships for Jordanian students to study in the United Kingdom was also discussed at the meeting (Petra).

RAWABDEH RECEIVES FRENCH ENVOY: French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq Monday met with Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh. They discussed Jordanian-French relations in general and cooperation between the cities of Amman and Paris in particular. Leclercq, who has ended his tour of office in Jordan, has been paying courtesy calls on ministers and senior officials before his departure (Petra).

TABBAA MEETS CZECH ENVOY: The Czechoslovak charge d'affaires in Amman had a meeting Monday with Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa. They discussed bilateral trade and economic relations (Petra).

ORGANIC POULTRY FERTILISERS BANNED: In implementation of the Cabinet decision, the Balqa governor has embarked on the executive steps for banning the entry of organic poultry fertilisers into the Jordan Valley farms (Petra).

ADMISSION AT EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITIES: The cultural attaché's office in Cairo has started preparations for admitting Jordanian students to the Egyptian universities for the 1989-1990 academic year. Jordan's Cultural Attaché in Cairo Fayez Al Rabi'e said Monday that the admission grades of last year have been approved this year for the purposes of admission to the universities in Egypt in accordance with the Jordanian students quota of 300 seats (Petra).

ART EXHIBITION: Ministry of Higher Education Secretary General Ahmad Bashairah Monday opened the four-day art exhibition of Kamel Ka'abar, held at Amman Community College. The exhibition includes 34 plates and posters reflecting the contemporary world problems (Petra).

TEAM TOURS AL JAFR: A mobile health team from Ma'an Governorate Health Department Monday toured Al Jafar and the border areas of the eastern badia (desert) where they provided health care services, including vaccines against communicable diseases. The team also organised a health education programme to raise people's awareness in health and general safety issues (Petra).

31 COMPLETE TRAINING COURSE: A total of 31 students from the Vocational Training Corporation's centre in Quwaismeh Monday completed a 10-day training course, during which they were briefed on the labour law, social security law, occupational safety and health, work injuries, vocational training and its importance in meeting the requirements of the local market for trained labour force, in addition to recruitment policies in Jordan (Petra).

STUDY FOR LESOTHO: Jordan's Institute of Management Monday concluded an agreement with a local consulting office, whereby the office will study the present organisational structure of the Water and Sewerage Authority in Lesotho, Africa, with a view to developing it (Petra).

IFRAT AT MARIOTT: The Amman Marriott Hotel is celebrating the holy month of Ramadan by giving special attention to the time honoured traditions of sharing and family togetherness during the month. On this occasion, the hotel is holding an iftar buffet every night during the holy month (J.T.).

COURSE AT IDB INSTITUTE: A two-week training course on management of liabilities, drawing up credit policies and production costs, started Monday at the Industrial Development Bank's Jordan Institute of Management. Taking part in the course are directors and representatives for various industrial institutions, insurance companies and banks (Petra).

HEALTH TEAM TO VISIT U.S.: Two officials from the Ministry of Health will visit the United States during the period from April 15 to April 27 to familiarise themselves with the primary health services activities applied in the U.S. The ministry's Secretary General Anwar Bilbeisi and Chief of Hospitals Section at the Ministry Haidham Asfour said their forthcoming visit was designed to get an up-to-date information on the PHC activities applicable in the United States, with a view to utilising their experience in Jordan (Sawt Al Shaab).

TRADE DIRECTORY: The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is currently embarking on the preparation of a 350-page trade directory including names of all commercial and industrial institutions, their addresses and telephone numbers. The new directory is expected to be ready by the end of this year (Sawt Al Shaab).

Father, son drown in King Talal Reservoir

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 40-year-old man Hassan Mahmoud Ghanem drowned Sunday in the reservoir behind the King Talal Dam near Jerash while trying to rescue his nine-year-old son from the lake, according to reports in Al Ra'i and Al Dustour Arabic dailies Monday.

The reports said that the bodies of both the man and his son were pulled out later by civil defence men who were called out to help in the rescue operation. The papers said that the man had gone out to the lake with his son to catch fish when the boy slipped and fell in the water, prompting his father to jump into the lake in a desperate attempt to rescue the boy.

The civil defence authorities near the lake later issued repeated warnings to the public to refrain from swimming in the lake or going near the water.

Al Dustour said that another man died and 37 people were injured in fires, road accidents and other incidents in the past 48 hours.

The paper also reported a big fire that engulfed a number of stores operated by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation at Jabal Amman.

The paper said that a short circuit caused by a fan was responsible for the fire which occurred at the early hours of Sunday. The fire was extinguished by the civil defence fire men.

Landslide destroys 3 homes

AJLUN (J.T.) — Landslides in the area of Ajloun, northern Jordan, have destroyed three homes and caused damage to 1,500 fruit trees and crops grown on 1,500 dunams of land, according to reports in the local press Monday.

Irbid Governor Akram Al Nasir, accompanied by Water Author-

ity officials, have already inspected the damaged areas and warned citizens to stay away, according to the reports which gave no word about any casualties.

The affected area lies near the town of Dahous, 28 kilometres south of Ajloun.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ✧ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ✧ A plastic art exhibition by Musa Ajjawi at the Yarmouk University.
- ✧ An art exhibition by Dr. Abdo Kashout of the Fine Arts Department at the Yarmouk University.
- ✧ An art exhibition by Dr. Kamel Qa'bar at Amman Community College.

FILMS

- ✧ A documentary on Florida shown as part of the American Centre's programme "Portrait of America" — 4:00 p.m.

Seminar discusses rehabilitated handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Service Community College Monday organised a seminar on ways to incorporate rehabilitated handicapped persons into the Jordanian society.

Specialists from the Ministry of Social Development, which operates the community college, addressed the meeting, tackling social issues confronting the process of absorbing the handicapped. Other specialists from the Ministry of Education and the University of Jordan tackled the question of skills that handicapped can acquire and the various ministries' responsibilities towards the handicapped persons in general.

Representatives of several organisations and college students took part in the seminar.

Queen Noor to inaugurate new UVS building

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will inaugurate Tuesday, the new building of the Union of Voluntary Societies (UVS) of the Amman Governorate.

The union was founded in Amman in 1958 and comprises all the charitable societies in the capital.

The total number of affiliated societies in 1989 is 168 charitable societies, specialised in the areas of the handicapped, education, professional training, health care and information services.

The purpose of UVS is to supervise the interests of the member societies, coordinate



HM Queen Noor

their efforts and upgrade the standard of their services.

UVS also works in the field of child care. It has opened a children's home in Marka with the purpose of developing their hobbies and talents. The home offers services for around 170 children each day.

9,118 families receive regular financial assistance from NAF

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) last month gave financial aid totalling JD 1,801 to 108 needy families in the country.

NAF's Director General Khalil Al Faouri said that the total number of Jordanian needy families, currently receiving regular financial assistance from the fund, now stands at 9,118. He said a total of JD 194,571 is

paid by the NAF to the poor families on a monthly basis, Faouri added.

The decision was taken last month to stop providing assistance to 60 families upon recommendations from the social workers and researchers who follow up the different cases of needy people, Faouri noted.

He said that the 60 families' general conditions have im-

proved, justifying the halt in assistance.

Also last month, the NAF received 193 new applications from poor families requesting assistance and NAF teams are now involved in studying the cases.

The NAF paid JD 180 in lump sum to two families facing emergency conditions. But the NAF's normal financial aid assistance for a family can reach up to JD 40, depending on the case.

SSC seeks to include unemployment in services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is currently studying the prospect of including unemployment in its field of services in Jordan, and has prepared a detailed report on the prospect of providing those covered by the SSC law to enjoy a comprehensive medical scheme, SSC Director General Mahdi Farhan said in a statement quoted by the local press.

According to the SSC, both unemployment and medical care are to be included in the SSC services. But so far only medical treatment to the victims of occupational accidents have been covered, Farhan noted.

He said that the SSC is helping the unemployed by pumping millions of dinars every year in different projects which in turn employ Jordanian citizens.

In order to have a full medical scheme for all those covered by the SSC law, a beneficiary has to pay at least JD 40 a year since the total cost will be JD 120 million, Farhan pointed out.

Referring to the SSC situation at present, Farhan said, the corporation is 10 years old now, and provides services to 515,000 people — Jordanians and others living and working in the country.

He said that since 1980, when the SSC was established, a total

of 145,000 citizens have benefited from the SSC compensation scheme, including 6,000 who are now on the SSC's pension payroll.

Altogether the SSC has paid JD 11.5 million in pension, of which JD 4 million were paid in compensation for death since 1980, Farhan noted.

Dr. Farhan said that lump sum compensation is paid to females if they leave work to get married and settled at home. Jordanians and foreigners upon finally leaving the country to settle abroad and Jordanians who are convicted by court and are sent to prison for at least five years.

Otherwise, Farhan noted, any one covered by the SSC law is entitled to benefit from the SSC pension, provided he or she had paid dues for at least 10 years or reached the age of retirement.

Farhan said that the SSC now has assets in cash and real estate estimated at JD 254 million, accumulated from premiums paid by the beneficiaries since 1980.

He said that SSC registers and reports indicated that only JD 58 million had been paid in expenses since the SSC was established.

According to the SSC director, the funds are invested in agricul-



Dr. Mahdi Farhan

ture, tourism, industries, banking and other projects and part of the funds are in the form of shares in major companies — all bringing in good profits for the SSC beneficiaries.

According to Farhan the SSC gave major loans totalling JD 87 million to major economic projects in Jordan and invested JD 17 million in housing schemes since 1980. Apart from that, the 1988 report showed that investments in hotels and tourist facilities brought in JD 599,000 which is expected to rise to JD 677,000 by the end of 1989.

Committee prepares for major festival on Independence Day

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Preparations for a major festival, which will be held in Amman on Independence Day, May 25, were reviewed at a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi.

The meeting was attended by members of a higher committee preparing for the festival which will be held at Al Hussein Sports City with the participation of students from around the Kingdom.

The minister was briefed on the various stages of the programme which is being implemented by teams from Amman, Irbid, Zarqa

and Balqa Governorates.

The minister urged all concerned authorities to step up their efforts so that the festival can achieve total success.

The committee, which is chaired by Ministry of Education's Secretary General Munther Al Masri, groups directors of education in Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa, as well as heads of departments responsible for scouts and girl guides activities.

Following the meeting, a ministry spokesman said the festival is designed "to deepen the sense of national belonging in the hearts of the young generation."

A total of 6,000 students will

take part in the festival, which includes athletic events and performances that reflect the country's cultural and historical background.

According to the official, teams entrusted with preparing for the festival embarked on their task two months ago and the training of children will continue from now until the date of the festival, which will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

Last Thursday, Hindawi inspected Sukaina School for Girls in Amman where part of these preparations are underway.

Jordan to observe 2nd world non-smoking day on May 31

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan is to observe the second World Non-Smoking Day on May 31, 1989, and a general meeting was held here Monday to review preparations for programmes to be carried out on the occasion.

The meeting, which was chaired by Health Minister Zuhair Mahbas, was attended by directors of health departments in various governorates and districts and those responsible for primary health care services.

At the end of the meeting the ministry issued a statement stat-

ing that on May 31, the ministry will highlight to the public the dangers of smoking and will ask for contributions on the part of members of the public to end the smoking habit in Jordan. The meeting discussed the application of measures and the imposition of penalties against smokers in closed public places.

The statement said that the Health Ministry is preparing a wide range programme on May 31 with the help of the Information agencies and the press, which will entail spreading awareness

against the dangers of smoking. It said that lectures and seminars will be held at schools and health centres and booklets and posters will be distributed everywhere.

Last week a seminar on combating smoking in Jordan was held at the University of Jordan with the participation of a number of specialists and Health Ministry officials.

Working papers reviewed at the meeting dealt with diseases resulting from smoking and the effects of smoking on the public health.

Higher Preparatory Committee discusses expatriates conference

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Higher Preparatory Committee for the Fifth Jordanian Expatriates Conference, which will be held in Amman in July under royal patronage, convened here Monday to discuss preparations for the coming conference and topics to be discussed by the participants.

The meeting, which was chaired by Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin, reviewed steps taken so far in the course of preparing for the conference,

which is normally attended by representatives of expatriates in the Gulf countries, Europe, Asia and the America.

In the previous four conferences held in Amman, the expatriates succeeded in obtaining government approval for acquiring dual nationalities, ensuring seats for their children at Jordanian universities, coverage for themselves and their families by the Social Security Corporation law and an agreement on the establishment of a holding com-

pany which would initiate projects in the Kingdom.

The higher committee includes the secretaries general of the ministries of Labour, Interior, Information, Industry and Trade, Customs, Planning, Higher Education and Education as well as representatives of the Al Hussein Youth City, the Amman chambers of industry and trade, the secretary general of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the Central Bank of Jordan and Royal Jordanian.

Ministry lays down new rules for pilgrimage

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat will hold a press conference on Wednesday to give details about new regulations and arrangements for this year's pilgrimage to Mecca, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

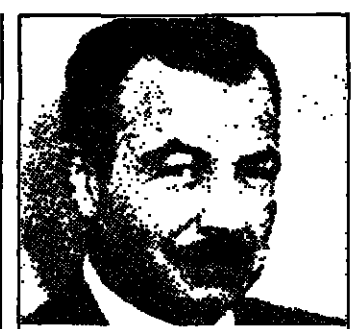
The paper said that the Ministry of Awqaf has laid down new rules concerning the pilgrims' travel and accommodation.

The paper said that a pilgrim's travel to Mecca and Medina and back to Jordan in air-conditioned buses and accommodation during the pilgrimage season at rented

lodgings in the two cities will now cost JD 356, some 30 per cent higher than that the cost in previous years.

The Ministry of Awqaf normally organises transport and accommodation for pilgrims going to the holy places in Saudi Arabia, arranges for local transport companies to carry the pilgrims there and back and accommodation for pilgrims.

In addition, the ministry dispatches medical missions and guides to accompany the pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.



RCC gets new director

AMMAN (Al Ra'i) — Marwan Khair was appointed as the director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) upon a decision by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

RJ security surpasses other airlines — Biltaji

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In wake of the latest hijackings and threats in air travel, the idea of security has become almost an obsession in the minds of many a traveller.

"No matter what an airline does, there is always a possibility that a well-organised group will carry out a hijacking," said one recent traveller. But Royal Jordanian's Vice President for Airport Services at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) Aqel Biltaji disagrees.

"Royal Jordanian has always taken the necessary security measures and has been constantly upgrading them in accordance with the latest in technological and procedural knowhow," Biltaji told the Jordan Times in an interview. "Our security procedures are so tight that others are picking up where we have left off."

As an example, Biltaji cited the fact that for the past four years, RJ has made it a procedural habit to examine with X-ray machines all transit baggage and to check transit passengers between one gate and the other. No other airline had done that until recently, he said.

Biltaji refused to elaborate on the exact measures taken by RJ in cooperation with the security officials, but said "Security matters are in the hands of professionals who know what they are doing and who are aware of what is happening. RJ will always accommodate those procedures."

He would not reveal the amount of money that has

been spend in upgrading security measures at QAIA and in the 44 RJ stations abroad, but he said "adequate funds" had been allocated for those purposes.

Recently, he explained, dogs have been used at QAIA as an extra security measure for detecting any "unlawful" materials. This is in addition to RJ's long standing procedure of enforcing the baggage reconciliation or identification system where no baggage is allowed on board any flight if it is not accompanied by a passenger.

In Biltaji's own admittance, the "tightened" security measures have negatively affected the airline's performance in term of time. But, he said, security considerations have affected airports and airlines all over the world. To counteract that, RJ staff members, along with members of the security force, have been studying the best means of applying security procedures without affecting the airline's on-time schedule.

Still 8.5 per cent of total delays in RJ flights during the month of March were due to "security reasons." That amounts to a delay in 1.3 flights per day, he said.

Asked what RJ would do in case of a hijack threat or warning, Biltaji said "classified plans" would be utilised depending on the nature of the threat. "The nature of the threat would dictate what procedures should be followed," Biltaji said, asserting that these plans "are in the hands of the designated people. All we have to do is reach for the file and follow them."

"The security and safeguarding of commercial and civil



Queen Alia International Airport; 'one of the safest in the world'. (inset) Aqel Biltaji

traffic in Jordan is the responsibility of the state, and the state has designated a party for this job," Biltaji said adding that RJ cooperates with the special security forces, the airport authorities, airline and station managers, as well as with other carriers, in matters related to security.

RJ also cooperates with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) ... ther

airport authorities, exchanging information and reviewing new developments in the security domain.

Locally, a special committee has been formed at QAIA encompassing representatives from Jordan's Security Department, the Immigration Department, the Special Forces Unit, the Police Department in addition to Biltaji himself. The committee holds regular meet-

ings to discuss the implementation of security procedures set by the Security Department.

For its part, QAIA has been chosen as one of the safest airports in the world, according to Biltaji. Two factors account for that: The combination of procedures followed by security personnel at the airport, in addition to the structure of the airport itself.

"There are no loose exists," Biltaji explained. "The airport parameters are tight and do not allow for unlawful entry."

The two main entrances to the airport, he said, are heavily guarded. This reporter had to pass through two security checks to get to Biltaji's office at QAIA even though, as Biltaji explains, his office does not lead to the airport's airside.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردن تايمز يومية عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. تأسست 1975.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Milestone

THE meeting of the prime ministers of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad Monday to discuss the council's organisational structure, secretariat, finances and nomination of a secretary general as a prelude to the ACC summit next month, is a timely and natural step. As the Arab Cooperation Council was proclaimed nearly two months ago at a summit of the four leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen in Baghdad, it would be in order to follow up on the great work that was already done to effect closer cooperation and coordination between the four countries of the ACC. The organisational structure of the council including the establishment of its secretariat and the appointment of its senior staff are clearly matters that need to be settled in order for the council to function juridically and administratively.

At this juncture it would be prudent to counsel against a cumbersome bureaucracy and the proliferation of posts. Rather the emphasis should be to deploy an efficient and proficient secretariat beefed up by personnel who are properly motivated to serve the goals and aspirations of the peoples and governments of the four countries currently making up the council.

Yet what is even more relevant than the organisational and personnel side of the work of the four prime ministers meeting in Baghdad would be the spelling out of the programme of action envisaged to complete the infrastructure of the council. In this context it was gratifying to note that an agreement was announced last month to link Jordan and Iraq with a railway line. Then came the encouraging news that the four Arab capitals will also be linked by air at domestic fares. Other surface transportation means are also being contemplated to strengthen the ties between the peoples of the four countries.

And as long as the momentum of such confidence building measures is maintained by a steady introduction of additional steps to attain the projected common market between the four countries and any other Arab countries which may apply for membership, the better would become the image of the ACC. The whole Arab World awaits the outcome of the prime ministers meeting in Baghdad with great deal of anticipation and excitement. In particular the peoples of the four concerned Arab countries also hold their breath for the announcement of additional breakthroughs on the path of consolidating and fortifying the ACC.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily editorial on Monday again dwelt on the situation in the occupied Arab territories where the intifada entered its 17th month. The continuation of the Palestinian revolt, the paper said, provides added evidence about the awareness of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and their determination to regain their rights and end the occupation, a point which the U.S. administration ought to take into consideration while handling the Arab-Israeli issue. The paper said that Washington ought to realise that nothing can be done to abort the Palestinian revolt and nothing can lure the Palestinians away from their goal. A return to peace and an end to the revolt can never be realised through halting the intifada and through the proposed elections under Israeli rule, said the paper. It added that only through the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and through a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied lands can peace be established.

A columnist in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i criticises civil servants for their shirking of their duties and their delaying of public business during the holy month of Ramadan. Nazih says that although the number of office hours is now less by one and a half, the employees in various government departments are almost idle and feel reluctant to do their duty. Most employees find a pretext in the fact that they are fasting and so they claim that they find it difficult to discharge their duties as usual with negative results on the public and damage to the reputation of their departments and ministries, the writer points out. He says that fasting during Ramadan should instead urge the employees to do a better job and act more seriously and meaningfully to serve the public. The writer urges employees superiors to take measures to ensure that the public interest is safeguarded.

Al Dostour daily wrote an editorial Monday on the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the meeting starting Monday in Baghdad to implement the ACC's objectives. The paper said that the prime ministers meeting in Baghdad is one practical step towards implementing the principles and the objectives of the ACC which came into being in February to help the Arab Nation carry on with economic development. The financial, administrative and other procedural matters that will be discussed are bound to open the way for practical steps to be taken in the four countries Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen in order to achieve the ACC's objectives, the paper noted. It said that decisions by the prime ministers in Baghdad will help realise the dreams of the Arab masses who continue to look forward towards full integration and unity.

Poets, soldiers winning battles for Tigray

By Eric Onstad
Reuter

MEKELE, Ethiopia — Roving poets and peasant soldiers are winning hearts and battles for rebels in Ethiopia's northern province of Tigray.

The army of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), led by a one-time medical student with no formal military training, captured almost all the province when the capital, Mekele, fell at the end of February.

It says its guerrilla troubadours, armed with poems and songs in the long-suppressed Tigray language are winning the TPLF political support — and recruits.

"We are fighters who have rifles on our shoulders, guitars in our hands and poems on our lips," Yassu Berhe, who runs the TPLF cultural department, told the first foreign journalists to visit Tigray since the offensive which captured Mekele.

The TPLF's army is made up mostly of peasants. Many appear to have been wooed to the cause by troupes of roving rebel min-

strels whose songs extol the TPLF's land distribution plan, its health clinics and agricultural services.

Since a band of university intellectuals took up arms and launched it in 1975, the TPLF has pursued a cautious hit-and-run strategy, inflicting heavy casualties and capturing tonnes of Ethiopian army equipment with minimal damage to its own forces.

From its earliest days the TPLF has infiltrated the countryside to win over to its cause of overthrowing Ethiopia's Marxist regime the peasants who account for 95 per cent of Tigray's people.

The Ethiopian government, which usually dismisses the TPLF as bandits, has in recent weeks said the fighting in the north has worsened. The government has never accepted the TPLF's criticisms of its policies and, although it has started moving to liberalise the economy slightly, has not promised any of the democratic reforms the TPLF says it is seeking.

"Yassu says the rebel poets are

a potent weapon because Tigrayans are hungry for a culture which has been suppressed for more than a century.

The Tigrayan town of Axum was where Ethiopian emperors were crowned for centuries until the 1800s when the centre of power shifted south to the Amhara people.

Tigrayans say Amharic leaders from Emperor Menelik II, who created the modern Ethiopian state in the 1890s, to the current president, Mengistu Haile Mariam, have dominated government and oppressed Ethiopia's other peoples, their cultures and their languages.

The TPLF has set up five cultural troupes with nearly 200 performers who perform in rebel-controlled areas and even record cassettes which mix traditional tunes and revolutionary lyrics.

"The TPLF believes that the cultural movement is a weapon," Yassu says.

"When we come to the newly liberated areas, the people know us, not personally, but from our cassettes," he adds.

Thousands of fans packed a Mekele sports stadium hours before the debut performance by Yassu's troupe in the first weeks of the rebel occupation.

As master of ceremonies, the full-bearded Yassu charmed audiences with witty commentary and traditional fables interjected between a succession of rousing dances and songs.

He says the troupe's messages and legacy of goodwill will complicate any future return to Mekele by the Ethiopian army.

For, if necessary, the TPLF will evacuate the capital in order to minimise rebel casualties and losses, says Yassu's soft-spoken military counterpart, TPLF commander Seeeye Abraha.

"The significance of holding territory cannot be the centre of our strategy," said Seeeye, who dropped out of medical school in Addis Ababa to help form the TPLF, taking over as chairman of the military committee four years ago.

"Our strategy is the maximum destruction of enemy material and human resources," Seeeye, reclining on an elbow on the floor

of a tent, told a visiting reporter. He has had no formal military training.

"It forces you to learn things the hard way," he said.

He has seen TPLF forces develop from a rag-tag band with a handful of rifles stolen from a police station to a structured army with an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 troops.

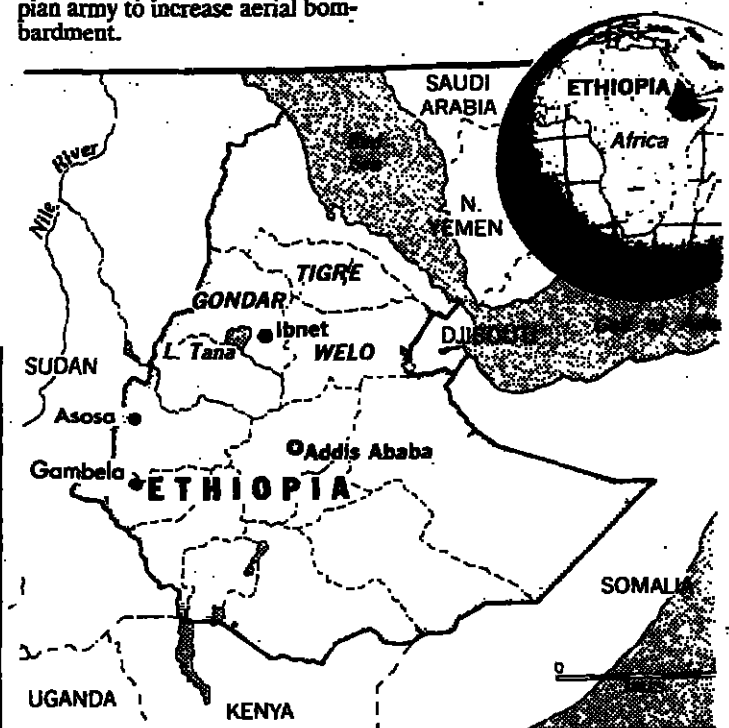
After capturing dozens of Soviet-made artillery pieces last year, the army launched a recruitment and retraining programme, and now has units of infantry, commandos, artillery, tanks, anti-aircraft and engineers throughout Tigray.

The TPLF expects the Ethiopian army to increase aerial bombardment.

"The capacity of the derg (government) to wage an offensive (on the ground) in the near future is minimal," he said.

The TPLF commander said the government had about 50,000 troops in neighbouring Wollo and Gondar provinces and would probably send at least as many conscripts to these areas soon.

But the TPLF is now coordinating operations with the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM), a small rebel group which operates in Wollo and Gondar. It also cooperates with the Eritrean People's Liberation Army (EPLF), which seeks independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea.



Troubled Tibet — which way now?

By Maggie James

LONDON — Thirty years ago the Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule ended disastrously with the deaths of thousands and the exile of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to India. The anniversary of that uprising on March 10, 1959 was marked this year by renewed protests and further deaths.

In the Buddhist resistance groups there is a growing reluctance to acquiesce to Chinese supremacy and an increasing readiness to take up arms. Until recently the idea was universally abhorrent to Tibetans. So where is it all leading? Can the Tibetan leadership in exile maintain control over events? Can the Chinese?

In the wake of what most Tibetans see as a concerted Chinese attempt to systematically eradicate all religious, cultural and political freedom in their community, most Tibetans so far have remained passive onlookers or intermittent rebels. The case of Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, is typical.

He has spent 30 years in exile in Dharamsala, India. Although he heads a Tibetan government-in-exile and many flock to him for guidance, the Dalai Lama can only observe and fret — or issue public denunciations. In *The Dalai Lama*, a new biography by French orientalist Claude B. Levenson, published by Unwin Hyman, he emerges as a modest, gentle man — perhaps increasingly pressured by the march of events in his country.

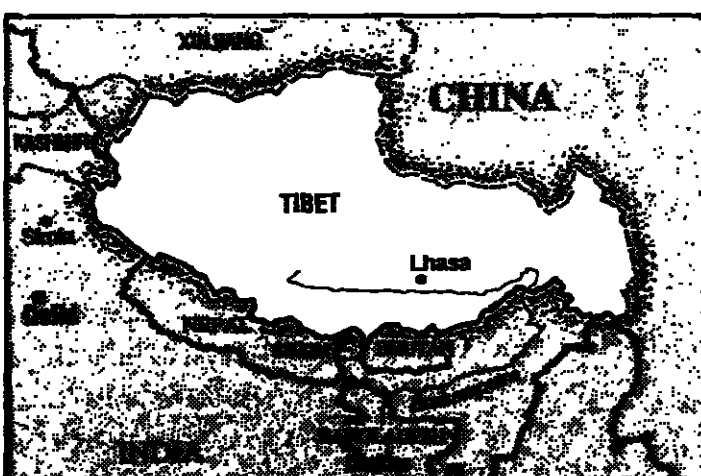
"In his view," says Mme Levenson, whose articles on Tibet have been widely published, "before making any other assessment, it is vital to define the misunderstanding which underlies the disagreement between Tibet and China. By their history, culture and tradition, the two countries are inevitably neighbours; nature has made it so. Politically, however, they have always represented two distinct entities, even if in the centuries of fluctuating interplay links of a specific nature have grown up between them."

"The kernel of the tragedy is unquestionably to the found in the Chinese wish to impose the image of a fictitious similarity, while the Tibetan determination to display its radical otherness has not weakened, and on the contrary has been reinforced with the passing years."

It is impossible, says the Dalai Lama in a conversation with the author, to quantify the enormous material losses suffered by his people as a result of that Chinese drive. He cites as just one example the sacking, plundering or dispatch of wealth accumulated through the centuries from 5,000 monasteries and the irreplaceable loss of precious manuscripts written in Sanskrit, Pali and Tibetan.

"And now the Chinese have the impudence to claim that they have spent something like \$3 billion on the development of Tibet over the last 30 years. Why do they forget to mention that they keep a minimum of 300,000 troops there, and nearly 1,700,000 state officials?" he asks.

In a world beset by renewed controversy over the merging boundaries of state and religion, the Dalai Lama is anxious to put the record straight on his own role — present or future. Modestly defining himself as "a simple Buddhist monk," Tenzin Gyatso is emphatic that it could prove dangerous to trust the leader of any religion with political power. "When it is said that the Dalai Lama is a spiritual and temporal leader, that does not lay down any hard-and-fast rule in either one of those spheres," he asserts. "The name is a general title



which signifies that the Dalai Lama is respected as a master in religion, and that he has a say in Tibetan political affairs. I am free to express my opinion both in religious and in political matters, and I am not obliged to be the spokesman of any particular institution."

"So when Tibetans talk about 'combining the religious function with the secular' it does not quite correspond to what Westerners mean when they refer to links between the Church and the State," he says. "If I were living in a free Tibet the situation would be different, but as a refugee I am undoubtedly subject to fewer constraints."

It is not necessary to be religious in order to feel responsible and to act justly, he says. Of his contact with the Tibetan Muslims, for example, he says, "I remember very few serious theological discussions with Muslims. One or two perhaps, particularly with Sufis, because oddly enough at first sight, they are very much interested in compassion and in certain methods of Buddhist meditation. But that approach has to do with technical details, attached to a specific meaning."

"What if I were to meet the Ayatollah Khomeini? What would you expect me to discuss with him, if not religion, God and the practice of compassion?" The Muslims of Tibet "in race, customs and culture... are Tibetans," he says. "The majority of them are Shi'ites, which means strict observance of the precepts

of their law, with the consequence that they have little or no relationship with other religions, and for example they will never share a meal with Buddhists. But in my own case they have sometimes agreed to do so, and I assure you that some of those meals were delicious!"

Journalist Vicki Mackenzie also met the Dalai Lama and was moved to report that "without any reservation he is the most impressive person I have ever met." The 14th Dalai Lama was discovered by the same process as his previous 13 incarnations. Signs were followed and these indications led to the boy from a humble farming background in a rural area of Tibet. Reincarnation, important in Tibetan Buddhism, is the theme explored in Mackenzie's book, which tells the story of a small boy destined to become an important spiritual leader, *Reincarnation: The Boy Lama*, published by Bloomsbury.

Mackenzie had enjoyed an eight-year friendship with a prominent Tibetan Lama (spiritual guide or teacher) who died in California in March 1984. Lama Yeshe, fearing the threat of its extinction, brought Tibetan Buddhism to the West. After his death, signs indicated that a small Spanish boy only 14 months old was the reincarnation of the deceased lama.

Mackenzie had a great many questions in her mind about the child, Osel Hita Torres, the son of humble Spanish parents. She rationalised that it was perfectly logical that if Lama Yeshe had

chosen to come back he would have chosen a western body, since his great work had been to bring his ancient teachings to the West.

Naturally curious to meet the reborn version of her friend, Mackenzie went to meet the young boy who has been verified by the Dalai Lama himself and was enthroned in northern India at the tender age of two. Mackenzie believes that Osel Torres will give us Buddhism 'western-style' as Lama Yeshe often advocated.

Ironically, the Dalai Lama himself is unsure about his own rebirth and reincarnation, at a time when the institution may be at its most precarious phase in its history. Much to his people's disquietude, says Vicki Mackenzie, he actually drew up a draft constitution in 1963, including a clause that would allow for his own impeachment.

Claude Levenson asserts that Tibet has paid a high price for the isolation which was both imposed from without and intended from within, and the awakening has been brutal, all the more so, she says, because the very fact that it has chosen the Buddhist way of life means that it does not come naturally to the Tibetan mind to respond to injustice with violence.

Confronted with adversity and with a motley coalition of more and less reputable interests in which the mercenary goes hand in hand with the ideologue, Tibet is left with fewer friends than most, for which the Dalai Lama has no complaints. He is convinced that honesty and truth will prevail.

Although advocating autonomy for Tibet, the Dalai Lama has recently suggested that the Beijing authorities could still remain in control of foreign policy and defence. The pressure is on the Chinese to negotiate and resolve the situation, which has come under the scrutiny of the world.

"Essentially, the whole world lives at the very heart of suffering. So it is futile to insult or mistreat others," says this pacifist, but there is a younger generation of Tibetans who are not afraid of confrontation with the authorities and are prepared to sacrifice all for their heritage — Academic File.

OPEN FORUM

Ramadan the holy

Singe, O winds of Ramadan!
Chasten the impure sins of man!
Now is the holy hour to repent,
Young and old, erect and bent.
Abstain from food all day!
Drive profane thoughts away!
But forget thy family not
For he who forgets is himself forgot.
Halt for a space thy caravan;
Contemplate the month of Ramadan
Wherein was revealed the glorious Koran
To guide the hapless belief of man.
Believers, bring your treasures out!
Cease the ugly stinkiness of yore!
Opulent sinners cease to gloat
O'er the yellow bars of ore!
They are bars to your true health:
Dying pleasures in your brief span;
So repent sinner, divide your wealth!
In homage to the Ramadan.
The sands of the desert are wrapped in beauty,
The black tents and the parched oasis;
Hail the Holy Koran, O Winds of the Wilderness!
Spread the great tidings in sundry places!
Boom! Boom! Joyously the Ramadan cannon
Proclaims the arrival of the Fasting Days.
Now the devout will rest, and anon,
Bask in glory, piety and praise.
My arms are full of food and sweets,
The heaps of Chocolate at each Gate,
I enter the house and call the wife;
O Children, gather in observant faith!
The dunes bathe in holy silence and light.
"O Believer, Fast has been prescribed for you!"
Soft is the breeze that breathes night,
The grey streaks of dawn are not yet in view.
Benevolent month of Ramadan!
O Ramadan Kareem!
Mohammad the Muezzin is calling.
Hither come forth sinners of Allah.
Foregather O Faithful inside the Mosque,
And in high chorus your voices raise in prayer
To the Holy Month of Ramadan

Sami Kamal

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The ascendancy of the Greens

Ecological awareness appears to be at its height just now with global interest focused on the degradation and pollution of the environment. The 'greenhouse effect,' acid rain, the 'ozone hole' et al have become universally familiar terms in discussions about the world's predicaments. In the political arena the ecologists' 'green' parties, primarily based in Western Europe and America, have gained significant power.

By Maggie James

LONDON — When and how did ecological awareness as we know it today evolve? And how did it come to be so inextricably involved with politics? A topical new book, *Ecology in the 20th Century: A History*, written by Anna Bramwell and published by Yale University Press, seeks to answer those questions as it traces the intellectual and political history of the ecology movement from its beginning in the late 19th century to the present.

Defining ecology, Dr. Bramwell, a lecturer in government at Brunel University in Hillingdon, England, says the word is widely used today in the normative sense, not in the biological sense. The science of ecology is one that considers energy flows within a closed system. The normative sense of the word has come to mean the belief that severe or drastic change within that system, or any change which damages any species within it, or disturbs the system, is seen as wrong.

Thus, she says, ecological ideas have come to be associated with the conservation of specific patterns of energy flows. These can be small in scale, such as a one-acre wetland site; or consist in the weather pattern resulting from the Amazon rain forests, or larger patterns that affect the continuity of human existence.

Stressing that her own theory about ecological ideas falls into three parts, Dr. Bramwell explains that firstly, their strength is not directly linked with actual problems.

"The issue I examine here is not the cause of soil infertility or pollution, or suggestions for preserving forests, but why it was only from the mid-nineteenth century on that the European 'thinking classes' worried about such matters. The ecology movement represents a new political consciousness and direction. It has been struggling to see the

light of day since the third quarter of the 19th century," she says.

"Secondly, propounders of ecological ideas came from the educated western classes; thinkers and intellectuals. To make full political ecology possible, many conditions had to be fulfilled, and combined at the right time. Thirdly, two key shifts in mentality were needed, in the biological and in the physical sciences," adds Dr. Bramwell, and she explains that because she regards these as the crucial roots of ecology, other subsidiary but important elements of the ecological ethic, such as the animal rights movement and vegetarianism, are omitted from the discussion.

The cultural and political criticism known as political ecology involves substantial ethical and moral claims, and proposes drastic and apocalyptic remedies, says Dr. Bramwell. She examines the history of 'Green' politics and points out that today's Green parties have carved out a political niche which receives between seven and eleven per cent of national party votes. The European Parliament has a Green section which has more members than the Communist Party. Green parties have flourished in northern and central Europe, in a wedge stretching from Finland to Austria, to Belgium.

The popularity of the movement was demonstrated in the recent French municipal elections where the Greens' vote increased in many towns and representation rose from 300 councillors nationwide to a healthy 2,000. Meanwhile in Germany, the first country to see the rise of an ecology party, which became the Green political party in 1979, they are a strong party which has only been weakened by its split into factions, although in Dr. Bramwell's opinion they do not seem very 'green' at all compared to single-issue ecological groups. The German Greens' latest demands are



curbs on the powers of the police and the counter-intelligence service — a controversial move.

Dr. Bramwell argues that today's Greens, in Britain, Europe and North America, have emerged from a politically radicalised ecologism, based on the shift from mechanistic to vitalist thought in the late nineteenth century. It was the fusion of resource-scarcity economics with holistic biology, she says, that gave force and coherence to ecological ideas.

But the Green tendency has aroused unease in some political quarters and dismissal in others. Dr. Bramwell says that the Right today tends to be pro-American, pro-nuclear power and conservative and suspects enthusiasm. The hard Left, despite recent efforts to capture green ground for Marxism, has tended to write off ecologists as trivial, irrelevant, or doomed to failure. It is Dr. Bramwell's opinion that ecologism is a political category in its own right, but that it has moved from the 'soft right' between the wars to the 'soft left' today.

She says that for many young, uncommitted observers, the idea that ecologists predate the 1970s would come as a surprise. Others, working for environmental causes for decades, see the recent growth of media interest in the Greens, with some cynicism, or

even irritation.

Ecologists themselves locate their roots variously. Some believe there has been an alternative, holistic tradition running through Western culture since the Middle Ages. There is already a substantial literature, reveals Dr. Bramwell, dominated by American feminists, which propounds the virtues of an alleged pre-patriarchal, pre-exploitative Golden Age, run by female market gardeners and moon worshippers.

It is in the sphere of single-issue campaigns, Dr. Bramwell indicates, that ecologists have been most successful. "They have aroused public interest, even if their policies have not always themselves succeeded. Greenpeace and its Save the Whale campaigns, recycling bottles, Friends of the Earth and their specific and localised anti-pollution campaigns, anti-nuclear waste actions, all these have caught the public imagination, and appeal to the prevalent sense that the valuable and beautiful rural world is being laid waste. When the issue is presented in terms of destroying ancient forests around the Danube, or building a hydro-electricity dam, it seems that public opinion can be aroused to protest.

"However, the sphere of action of single-issue pressure groups is

limited. Despite the Marxist belief that only capitalist societies are uncontrollably polluting and exploitative, Soviet fishing fleets prove much less responsive to Greenpeace's campaigns than American ones. Air and water from the factories of Eastern Europe in horrific, especially considering their much lower density of population than Western Europe.

In conclusion Dr. Bramwell is extremely critical of modern ecologism: "What after all today's ecological movement is advocating," she says, "is a return to primitivism, and the abandonment of treasure and knowledge to tribes and nations in foreign lands who pose no threat to us. Consciously or otherwise, this is a death-wish."

"We are not talking here about eschewing food additives and colouring matter, whole food in a whole land, as were the earlier ecologists, but something different — and deadly. For today's ecologists, their hope of regeneration presupposes a return to primitivism, and thus, whether they wish to enunciate it or not, concomitant anarchy, the burning before the replanting, the cutting down of the dead tree. The father of the movement is an utter rejection of all that is, and for at least three millennia all that was." — Academic File.

The world's first computer

GREECE — A mysterious object recovered from the sea near the Greek island of Antikythera in 1900 has since then been the object of much thought and controversy among archaeologists — who seem to have come to the tentative conclusion that it is in fact the world's first computer.

Professor Derek Desola Price, a British archaeologist who teaches at Princeton and Yale, has studied the 'mechanism', as he calls it, for more than 30 years. He believes that it is "a calculating machine of incredible technology for its age, which was made for various uses concerning chronological calculation."

In a book recently published, Price states that the Antikythera computer was amazingly advanced, with a whole series of bronze cogs some of which were only 2 mm thick. There were 32 of these toothed cogs, some of which revolved with differential motion! The first known appearance of such machines — in design and not actually constructed, and with seven cogs rather than 32 — dates from after 1000 AD. It took 16 whole centuries for

machines of the complexity of the Antikythera computer to appear.

Yannis Veneris, special scientific associate of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, explains how the computer worked.

"Its dimensions were 16 x 32 x 9 cm. On the outside it had discs to make the settings and inside a complicated system of cogs. When not in use, the discs were covered with metal plates. All the external surfaces were covered with instructions — just like the manuals for today's computers.

"There were three discs — one at the front and two behind. When the user turned a handle on the side, the cogs revolved and the readings on the discs changed at different speeds. The readings on the front disc were the various signs of the zodiac, with a needle to point to the months of the year. The letters of the alphabet were inscribed on a fixed surface on the front.

"In other words, the user could calculate the annual movements of the sun through the cycle of the

zodiac and work out the movements of the stars and constellations through the year.

"The discs at the back seem to have had more complex functions. The top one had four needles and the bottom one three. Price has hypothesised that they were used to calculate the phases of the Moon. The months shown on the disc correspond to the Hellenic-Egyptian year, which had twelve 30-day periods plus one five-day period, with no provision for leap years. It was this very straightforward calendar that the astrologists of the time preferred.

"Price thinks that one of the marks on the disc is the date of construction, and that, along with the dating of the materials, the type of lettering used, and so on, leads to the conclusion that the Antikythera computer was made in 87 BC.

"The accuracy of the inscriptions is incredible. Magnified 2.6 times, the average distance between them is 3.217 mm and the average deviation from this only 0.325 mm."

Fusion researchers struggle for money as well as answers

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

BOSTON — Nuclear fusion may become the miracle cure for the world's energy needs in the next century, but researchers in the field must first overcome a daunting array of financial as well as scientific obstacles.

Recent reports from the state of Utah indicate that scientists there may be the closest yet to fusing hydrogen atoms together at room temperature, a critical breakthrough that has eluded scientists for three decades.

But even if the controversial Utah claims prove true, which many fusion researchers doubt, practical applications are more than 20 years and billions of dollars away.

In the meantime, governments around the world who are the main backers of fusion research, are reducing funding levels. Scientists said those cutbacks have delayed research by years, discouraging many in the field.

Private industry is not expected to pick up much of the slack due to the huge costs. Some \$2 billion has been spent on nuclear fusion research in the United States alone since 1951 and researchers estimate another 20 billion will need to be spent before nuclear fusion becomes a reality.

The United States has allocated \$349 million for fusion research in 1990, \$26 million less than recommended by the Department of Energy and well below 1984's \$470 million the peak spending year.

"The problem is the government feels there is no energy crisis anymore," said Stephen Dean, director of fusion power

announced last October that nuclear fusion funding would be cut by 25 per cent and 150 employees laid off at laboratories. Britain's fusion researchers union called it "the abandonment of the 21st century."

JET

Britain has also not made any funding commitments beyond 1992 to an important European fusion project, Joint European Torus (JET), based in Culham, England.

Scientists have long theorised that fusion, the process that powers the sun, could be the most efficient energy source in the universe, with the oceans providing all the fuel the earth could ever need.

Fission, which produces energy by splitting atoms, is the process used in today's nuclear power plants. But the radioactive fuel it requires is expensive and dangerous.

Fusion reactors would use hydrogen gas, the most plentiful element in the universe. Scientists estimate that the hydrogen contained in .028 cubic metre of seawater would produce the same amount of energy through fusion as 10 tonnes of coal burned in a conventional power plant.

The most advanced fusion research forces the atoms together in a heavy form of hydrogen, called deuterium, that is packed into an enormous doughnut-shaped reactor called a Tokamak, a device the size of a football field.

Princeton University's Plasma Physics Laboratory, the largest fusion research centre in the United States, and the JET Tokamak in Culham have both reported success in achieving fusion at temperatures of over 212 million degrees Fahrenheit and sustaining them for more than a second.

But at this point, Tokamaks

use far more energy than they produce, and no one expects to reach the critical break-even point between energy use and output until at least 1992 — or longer if budgets continue to be cut.

A JET spokesman, for example, predicted an experimental reactor to take the process to the next step might be ready by the year 2000, a demonstrator reactor could follow around 2020 and a commercial reactor 10 years later.

The Utah fusion breakthrough announced on March 23 by physicist Stanley Pons of the University of Utah and Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton, England, stirred up excitement because room temperature fusion was reportedly attained in an electrolytic cell set up on a table.

The scientists said they had sustained the fusion reaction for 100 hours and that it produced considerably more energy than it consumed. They spent only \$100,000 of their own money over five years to achieve the result.

But other scientists said the research, which has yet to be published, could well be the results of flukes or errors.

By Vijaya R. Bhalerao

BOMBAY — As in many of the burgeoning Third World cities, a staggering 50 per cent of Bombay's population lives in slums. Every second person in the city is exposed to diseases that thrive in these urban cesspools. Devoid of the basic necessities like safe water, drainage, electricity and other municipal facilities these overpopulated areas pose a formidable challenge to the authorities.

A World Health Organisation (WHO) project which started in 1976 has had some encouraging results and can provide a good example to any future responses of help. The project involved resettling 85,000 from the slums in a new village named Malvani, about 21 miles (35 kilometres) from Bombay. The King Edward Memorial Hospital and its associate, the Seth G.S. Medical College, were invited to look after the health of the new community.

It was an uphill task for the well-meaning health advisers who braved low income, overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, a lack of a nearby hospital, a total absence of community participation and no international assistance. But that was not all; a very high percentage of the population suffered from scabies, malnutrition, tuberculosis, leprosy, and there was virtually no immunisation cover.

A mere 50 paise (5 cents) per child per day was all the financial assistance the project got, half of which was committed to feeding the children. And it was through the children that organisers were able to get their health messages effectively across to the rest of

the community. Very soon mothers came forward volunteering help and so making other projects possible.

The next step was to start 'mother-craft clinics'. Mothers were shocked into health awareness with photographs of foetuses which died because of anaemia and sexually transmitted diseases. The women were appalled at the idea of losing their babies in advanced stages of pregnancy. They sought more information, and insisted on offering their own blood and urine samples for clinical examination.

Next group exercises were started for mothers-to-be, encouraging them to 'gossip' about their own experiences of motherhood and family health. Out of this emerged group discussions in which the women of Malvani themselves corrected the misconceptions of others. This being achieved it was time to concentrate on the decision-makers of the families — the men. Contrary to popular expectations, they proved ready to participate actively in discussions on health problems. As a result there is today a far greater acceptance of family planning methods and a measurable reduction in prenatal mortality.

Scabies

A community-based clinic for children under five evolved. Informal sessions on child rearing and cooking proved popular, giving the mothers an opportunity to socialise.

The problem of scabies — a contagious skin disease caused by unclean surroundings — was combated with a tub on wheels. A bath with a 10 per cent solution of

benzyl benzoate was driven around the village and patients and their families were invited to have a 'holy dip'. The rate of cure was an astonishing 99 per cent.

From these simple beginnings a more ambitious project was started at the health centre. Every year a 'camp' is held where mobile X-ray facilities help to detect tuberculosis. Again school children are encouraged to convince their relatives and neighbours to attend. Many cases were discovered and treated, with a subsequent fall in the fatality rate.

Similarly immunisation campaigns, in schools, door-to-door visits and at the health centre succeeded in raising the coverage for complete primary immunisation from 40 per cent in 1977 to 96 per cent by 1984.

"Surgery at the doorstep" was another innovation in Malvani, which proved acceptable and cost-effective. It covered minor surgical operations like cataract

removal, dental surgery, vasectomy and tubectomy. The post operative infections rate was significantly less than that usually experienced after in-patient hospital surgery. Most patients preferred to wait for the next camp rather than go to the general hospital in Bombay.

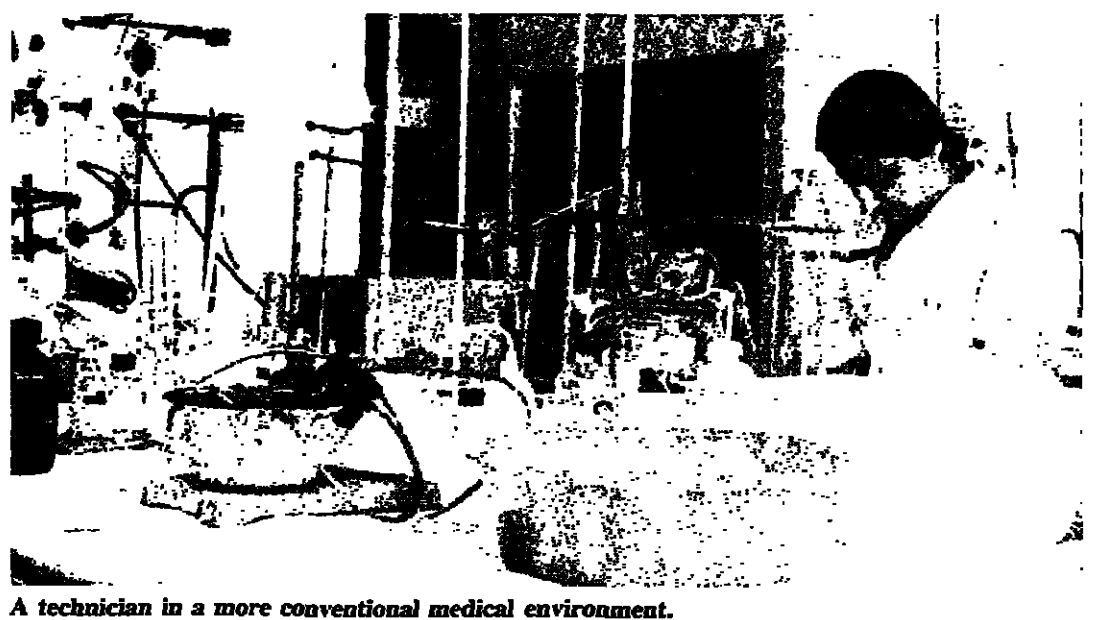
Another programme recently started for women has helped to make this new community more self-reliant, so the health project is helping them to help themselves. Many women who worked in small-scale industries were getting a very raw deal and were being exploited by the 'middlemen'. They were given jobs to do at the health centre on a daily wage basis, like stitching bed sheets for large companies and hotels.

Green vegetable are grown at the health centre and are served in the midday school meals and at the nutritional rehabilitation centre for children suffering from grade III malnutrition. Children,

particularly those who are physically handicapped, enjoy tending the plants.

The children of Malvani are at the forefront of all health activities. From initially acting as messengers, they are now educators driving home the important issues of health with songs, dances and street theatre. More recently they have gone a step further becoming the unpaid associates of the health centre. They have proved capable of detecting such ailments as tuberculosis, anaemia and scabies, and persuading sufferers to have treatment and have even treated people suffering with diarrhoea with oral rehydration salts.

This is a prime example of using local resources effectively, without incurring additional cost and only goes to prove that however big the problem, the proper channelling of the power of human good sense and good will, makes nothing impossible — Academic File.



A technician in a more conventional medical environment.

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After a surprising 1988

U.N. experts expect Western economies to slow down in '89

GENEVA (R) — Western economies will probably slow down in 1989 after rebounding surprisingly well from the 1987 stock market crash, U.N. economists said Monday.

The U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) said in its annual economic survey for 1988-89 that slower growth was likely largely because central banks introduced tighter monetary policy in the second half of 1988 to control inflation.

Western European consumption was also approaching a natural cyclical peak, it said. But European capital spending would probably rise, and the economies would still be robust.

"Although no longer booming, the United States economy remains strong, while in Western Europe the impulses for a continuing upswing, particularly of fixed investment, are still considerable," the report said.

The ECE groups all 32 Euro-

pean nations as well as the United States and Canada, and the report said that according to official Eastern European statistics the centrally-planned economies were also growing strongly.

The report said a resurgence of inflation and the size of the U.S. budget deficit threatened the world economy.

It called for a reduction of the deficit at a rate gradual enough not to provoke recession but steady enough to achieve real reduction. "If the (U.S.) administration fails to introduce effective fiscal measures of its own, the adjustment will be imposed by the international financial markets," it said.

The survey said effective international cooperation, for exam-

ple coordinated interest rate cuts, had helped stop the October 1987 crash forcing slower economic growth in the free market economies in 1988 as economists had forecast.

In the end, the West's economic activity — measured by gross domestic product after taking inflation into account — grew by 3.7 per cent, more than forecast before the crash and up from 3.1 per cent in 1987.

U.S. growth accelerated to 4.0 per cent from 3.5 per cent the year before and was expected to slow down this year to 2.75-3.0 per cent.

Western European economies grew at 3.6 per cent, their fastest rate since 1976 and up from 2.6 per cent in 1987, but that rate was forecast to slow to 2.5-2.8 per cent this year.

According to official figures, the growth rate in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, rose to 4.1 per cent in 1988

from 2.6 per cent the year before.

The ECE said, however, that sometimes Eastern European figures "optimistic." Alternative professional estimates put Soviet growth in 1988 at considerably lower than the 4.5 per cent official figure.

Moscow intends to increase its economy — measured by net material product (NMP) — by 6.0 per cent in 1989, and the other Eastern European economies planned 4.4 per cent growth on average.

But internal problems, the expected slowdown in the world economy and the effects of economic reforms would make 3.5 per cent a more realistic average growth rate for these countries, the ECE said.

Growth in the socialist economies has been helped by buoyant East-West trade, partly due to a warming international political climate and economic reforms in the East Bloc.

Spanish taxmen close in on hidden wealth

MADRID (R) — Spaniards call it "black money." House prices and imports of luxury goods have shot up because of it and now the government wants it taxed for all it is worth.

Although the name evokes a seamy underworld of drug dealing and ill-gotten gains, black money is in fact popular local short-hand for a vast pool of hidden wealth that has eluded the Spanish taxman for years.

But now revenue officials are closing in fast on hundreds of thousands of Spaniards who have salted hidden wealth away in deposits and real estate.

And, in a country where tax evasion is a pastime as deeply embedded in the national psyche as bull-fighting, many people are crying foul.

"It's a cultural problem. This is a country with a very short tax history," says Jose Borrell, a secretary of state for the economy who has a reputation of being a relentless pursuer of tax evaders.

Economists say part of the problem is that Spain has been transformed in 10 years from a tax paradise into one of Europe's more heavily taxed countries.

"I am surprised there is not more black money because we are not seeing better roads and

better communications," one said. Until a sweeping tax reform law was introduced in 1978, Spaniards only paid income tax at a rate of 12 per cent.

Tax evasion is so widespread that doctors and dentists frequently offer not to charge patients value added tax (VAT) if services are paid for in cash.

"The other day a man came to deliver a fridge to my house and asked me whether I wanted to be billed with or without VAT," Borrell said in an interview.

He has appealed to the church and to the labour movement to support his campaign to persuade Spaniards to pay all their taxes, but got a cool reception.

The recent trial of popular flamenco singer Lola Flores has shown Spaniards that no one is immune from prosecution on tax charges. Flores was acquitted of criminal wrongdoing but has been ordered to pay tax arrears totalling \$480,000.

As the authorities close off tax loopholes, many people are putting their black money in low yield treasury bills, which are tax exempt, or are simply going on a spending spree.

Orle U.S. bank economist, who asked not to be named, said he estimated house prices in Madrid

had been boosted by up to 30 per cent by the black money phenomenon.

"When you buy a house it is quite normal to be asked to pay half the price 'in black,'" a Spanish economist said.

House buyers and sellers often come to an arrangement where only part of the value of the deal is declared for tax purposes.

In a major breakthrough, the government recently won a lengthy legal battle against insurance companies which were refusing to provide tax authorities with lists of clients who had invested in so-called "single-premium" policies.

Borrell said he estimated that 2,000 billion pesetas (\$17 billion) were tied up in the policies. "We assume that most of this is undeclared wealth," he added.

Insurance companies devised single-premium policies, effectively deposit accounts paying low interest, as a tax shelter when the constitutional court ruled in 1985 that banks could not withhold information on clients from tax authorities.

The ruling led to an outflow of black money from bank deposit accounts into single-premium policies offered by the insurance companies, many of them con-

trolled by banking groups.

Now the money is on the move again and this time it is pouring into short term treasury bills, called pagares, which pay only 5.5 per cent, less than the inflation rate and only one third the interest of most other treasury instruments.

Borrell calls the pagares a "refugio pecatorum (refuge for sinners)." "In so far as this wealth exists it is better to have it providing cheap finance for the public sector than for it to be in Switzerland," he said.

The authorities are also clamping down on the property market. Under new legislation, notary publics who authorise transactions will only be able to charge commissions on the declared value of property.

Sellers caught under-declaring the value of a house will be taxed at a high rate on the portion of the house's value that was not declared.

Borrell says he is far from sure his campaign will succeed. "There is a serious risk that we will lose this battle," he said. "No policy can be applied against society's will. If society does not think you are in the right, you are not in the right."

First Chinese futures market takes shape

TOKYO (R) — China's first futures market, due to open this year, will resemble those that operated in the United States in the mid-19th century, says William Grossman, head of the Chicago Board of Trade's (BOT) Tokyo office.

Because of China's communications problems, he said, messengers will probably have to deliver bids and offers from market players and at the exchange board with price changes likely relayed by word-of-mouth or in newspapers.

Grossman is advising Chinese

futures market planners and recently returned from a tour of the planned site of China's first exchange.

"China is just starting out and it only makes sense that their market would look like ours when we got started," Grossman said in an interview.

Chinese officials hope to open a wheat futures market in Zhengzhou in Henan province as the first of several futures exchanges that will dot the country.

But Grossman said the project probably would not get off the ground until sometime next year and when it did open it would be too primitive to judge by U.S. or European standards.

For example, the Chinese wheat exchange would be "a roaring success" if it traded 100 contracts a week, Grossman said.

His own CBOT trades nearly 70,000 wheat contracts a week. Moreover, the Chinese wheat exchange could be open as little as one hour a day, five days a week.

Futures contracts are agreements to buy or sell a commodity at a particular price at some date in the future. Futures can enable producers and users to hedge against wild price swings.

China's underdeveloped infrastructure is one of the biggest hurdles to future market growth, Grossman said. China lacks tele-

phone lines, critical for orders in modern exchanges.

Grossman said China still faced major economic hurdles before a market could open. The planned 16-storey headquarters of the wheat exchange is at present only two piles of construction materials — the project stalled by a government credit crackdown to battle inflation.

In addition, physical delivery of the underlying wheat could be easily delayed by roads around the proposed market that sometimes wash out during rain storms.

The actual date of the exchange's opening hinges on unresolved political questions that relate to operating a futures exchange in a socialist country, Grossman said.

Issues as fundamental as the market-making mechanism are grounded in ideological debates. Officials are trying to decide whether to allow Chicago-style local traders who trade only for their own account or whether to recommend some form of government-sponsored device.

"People in the countryside see the benefits of productive speculation, but some of those in Beijing don't share their views," Grossman said.

However, Grossman said that,

contrary to his expectations, most Chinese officials strongly supported a continuous trading system rather than a market with periodic price fixings.

"They prefer somebody to take the risks and make the market efficient," he said.

Grossman said that the Chinese government seemed anxious to get the exchange running if no political problems emerged in the coming months.

Chinese officials are considering opening the exchange in a temporary structure if the permanent site cannot be quickly completed, Grossman said.

China faces severe problems in determining how much of each crop to plant. Chinese officials hope that operating a futures exchange could make agricultural planning easier, he said.

Chinese farm output sometimes fluctuates widely because farmers stop planting a crop if prices fall after a bumper harvest.

For example, after cotton production hit a record 6.26 million tonnes in 1984, output the next two years fell to 4.15 million and 3.54 million tonnes.

Chinese government officials also hope to begin other futures markets for hogs, soybeans and corn during the next few years, Grossman said.

Report suggests specific measures to raise Jordan's agricultural sales

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's exports of fruits and vegetables last year accounted for 5.9 per cent of the total national exports compared with 7.6 per cent in 1987, 15.3 per cent in 1986, 8.6 per cent in 1985, and 9.8 per cent in 1984, according to a report prepared by Jordan Agriculture, Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) Director-General Ghazi Abu Hassan.

Abu Hassan blamed the decline in agricultural exports to an

increase in crop production in Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia, the main importers of Jordanian produce, a strong competition for Jordanian crops from those of Turkey, Lebanon and Greece in the Gulf area and a decline in exports to Lebanon, Syria and Iraq due to a number of difficulties in the three countries.

Abu Hassan said that Jordan's inability to develop its containers, crates and boxes, in which it

normally markets its produce, and failures to carry out properly the process of grading and packing crops, vegetables and fruits were also to blame for the decline.

The JAMPCO director suggested reducing the cost of inputs, vertical increase of production, control over grading and packing facilities and seeking new markets for Jordan's products as means for overcoming the problem and increasing sales.

He said that the establishment of a special export fund, like the case in many agricultural countries, and expanding the food processing industry to absorb surplus crops are bound to help in the process.

Abu Hassan, however, reported that Jordan's 1988 fruit and vegetable exports amounted to JD 16.6 million down from JD 18.1 million in 1987 and JD 34.45 million in 1986.

ACC business officials to meet in Cairo soon

CAIRO (Petra) — Presidents of the federations of chambers of commerce and industry in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), will hold a meeting here in the coming few weeks to set regulations and draw up basic principles for the establishment of a holding company grouping the four countries.

The meeting, according to an official announcement here, will also be attended by unions of private sector investors in the

four nations. Contacts are underway among officials in the four countries to discuss the establishment of the projected company with the participation and financing of the private sector, the announcement added.

According to the announcement, the joint holding company will be entrusted with studying and implementing projects and setting up subsidiary companies to deal with tourism development, transport, industry and communications.

Poland hikes bread prices

WARSAW (AP) — The government announced Sunday that bread prices would be increased 26 per cent starting April 10, the state-run news agency PAP said. The price of a normal loaf of white bread is scheduled to increase from 49 zlotys (8 cents) a loaf to 62 zlotys (10 cents), and the price of better quality bread will go from 57 zlotys (10 cents) to 72 zlotys (12 cents) a loaf, the agency said. The ministry of finance ordered the price increase in order to stop "the decline in profitability" of the banking industry, PAP said. Bakers in Warsaw reduced production of white bread for about two weeks in mid-March to protest low wages in the industry. The bakers were demanding a 100 per cent pay raise, but they later suspended their protest without winning salary increases.

Gulf and Western announces changes

NEW YORK (R) — Gulf and Western Inc. said Sunday it would sell its huge financial services business and concentrate on its far-ranging media interests, renaming itself after its Paramount pictures subsidiary in the process.

Paramount is one of Hollywood's major studios, having made such hit films as "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Crocodile Dundee," and it is active in television production, with programs including "Cheers," "Star Trek" and "Family Ties."

Gulf and Western said it would soon be known as Paramount Communications Inc.

The consumer and commercial finance business, called The Associates, is worth more than \$3 billion, according to industry analysts.

A spokesman said Gulf and Western's board of directors approved plans to sell the unit Friday, but the company has not yet entered talks with potential bidders.

Industry analysts have called Gulf and Western a candidate for a major restructuring following the recent giant mergers in the media industry, most notably the proposed combination of the entertainment and publishing conglomerates Time Inc. and Warner Communications Inc.

Gulf and Western said its entertainment and publishing operations accounted for operating income of \$431.8 million and revenues of \$3.06 billion in the fiscal year ended Oct. 31, 1988. Total net earnings in the period

were \$384.7 million on revenues of \$5.10 billion. Gulf and Western said proceeds from the expected sale would be used to expand its ongoing stock repurchase programme. The company has the authority to acquire an additional 8.2 million shares of its common stock under its current 10 million-

share programme. There are about 116,189,000 shares outstanding, with a market value of \$5.75 billion.

The stock, which rose \$1.50 Friday to \$49.50 a share, had been steadily gaining over the past weeks and months on speculation of a restructuring move.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, April 10, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	84.9	85.6
Pound Sterling	910.6	919.4	Japanese yen (for 100)	405.4	409.2
Deutschemark	286.4	289.0	Dutch guilder	233.9	236.1
Swiss franc	324.7	328.9	Swedish crown	84.0	84.8
			Italian lira (for 100)	39.0	39.4
			Belgian franc (for 100)	136.8	138.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	1.6938/48	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1880/90	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8780/90	Deutschemark
	2.1170/80	Dutch guilders
	1.6555/65	Swiss francs
	39.31/33	Belgian francs
	6.3375/3425	French francs
	1376/1377	Italian lire
	132.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.3950/4000	Swedish crowns
	6.8200/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.3025/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	381.65/382.15	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market closed easier in listless trade due to nervousness ahead of an economic statement due Wednesday. The All Ordinaries Index eased 0.2 points to 1412.7.

TOKYO — Prices closed lower in very thin trade with investors avoiding the market because of the Keenit share scandal. The Nikkei index fell 186.03, 0.38 per cent, to 32,999.02.

HONG KONG — Trade was sluggish on concerns that several Hong Kong companies are planning cash calls. The Hang Seng index slipped 2.66 to 3,021.43.

SINGAPORE — Bargain-hunters pushed prices up in brisk trade. The Straits Times industrial index gained 5.31 to 1,191.97.

FRANKFURT — Prices rose sharply across the board, led by strong demand for selected specialty stocks. The Real-Time Dax index rose 11.20 to 1,359.22.

ZURICH — Prices were slightly firmer in lively trading, reflecting Wall Street's gains last Friday. The All-Share Swiss Index put on 7.8 to 1,025.8.

PARIS — Prices were higher in thin volume, supported by firm European markets and a general mood of optimism about short-term trends. The 50-share bourse indicator rose by 0.57 per cent.

LONDON — The market moved lower on growing worries that the British trade gap and growing inflation might lead to higher interest rates. At 1540 GMT, the FTSE-100 index was down 22.9 at 2,022.8.

NEW YORK — The market had a firm bias but blue chips came off their early highs. Investor interest waned on lack of fresh news. The Dow was up three at 2,308.

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Aqaba Railway Corporation announces that it has made the deadline for accepting offers for tender number 1/89 12 o'clock, Tuesday 6/6/89 instead of Wednesday 3/5/89.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
MARDI QATAMIN
AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION

Baseball Roundup

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (AP) — Pedro Guerrero batted 286 last season with runners in scoring position, he hit .371.

"I just seem to hit better in that situation. I guess I like the pressure," he said Sunday after he homered and drove in four runs to lead the St. Louis Cardinals past the Philadelphia Phillies 15-3.

Guerrero has 10 RBIs in four games. He said he couldn't recall a better start in his nine-year career.

"I guess I'm just hitting at the right time," said Guerrero, who is 5-for-17.

Jose Oquendo had three hits and drove in four runs. St. Louis batters had eight extra-base hits, including seven doubles, and 19 hits in all. Terry Pendleton and Vince Coleman also had three hits each.

Mets 2, Expos 1

MONTREAL (AP) — Kevin Elster doubled home the tie-breaking run with one out in the ninth inning and Dwight Gooden allowed three hits over eight.

Andy McGaffigan, 1-1, who had just entered the game in relief of Dennis Martinez, walked Gary Carter to open the ninth. Len Dykstra, pinch running for Carter, was sacrificed to second by Dave Magadan. Elster then scored Dykstra with a drive into center field.

Gooden, 2-0, walked one and struck out seven. He was a 15-2 record in 21 career starts in April.

Giants 9, Reds 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — Matt Williams hit a grand slam for his first hit of the season, snapping an 0-for-14 slump.

Williams singled with two outs in the first. Kevin Mitchell hit an apparent inning-ending fly

to left-center field, but outfielders Eric Davis and Kai Daniels let the ball fall between them. It bounced over the wall for a ground-rule double, with Clark stopping at third.

Candy Maldonado was walked intentionally and Kirt Manwaring walked to force in a run, bringing up Williams, who began the game 4-for-41 against the Reds.

Rick Reuschel, 2-0, allowed four hits and one run in six innings.

Cubs 8, Pirates 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Rick Sutcliffe pitched a seven-hitter and struck out 11 as Chicago completed a three-game sweep.

The game was played in a 33-degree temperature and the wind-chill made it feel as if it were eight degrees. It snowed two hours before the game and the stadium ramps had to be salted down to accommodate the crowd of 11,387.

Domingo Ramos, Ryne Sandberg and Mark Grace drove in two runs each for the Cubs.

Sutcliffe, 2-0, allowed a run in the first on Andy Van Slyke's sacrifice fly but the Cubs came back with four in the bottom of the inning on an RBI single by Sandberg, a two-run single by Grace and an RBI double by Ramos.

Bob Walk, 3-0 last year against the Cubs, gave up eight hits and five runs in four innings.

Padres 5, Astros 4

HOUSTON (AP) — Tony Gwynn drove in two runs, including the game-winning, and Jack Clark added a two-run single.

San Diego accomplished the sixth triple play in club history and their first since July 31, 1983, in the eighth inning.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Yugoslavia beat Spain 4-1

SPLIT, Yugoslavia (R) — Yugoslavia completed a 4-1 triumph over Spain in their world group Davis Cup quarter-final tie Sunday. With Yugoslavia leading 3-0 after taking Saturday's doubles, the remaining singles had little significance but Spain saved some of their pride when Sergio Casal beat Slobodan Zivonjovic. The Yugoslav cared more about entertaining the crowd than playing serious tennis and Casal gratefully accepted an effortless win.

Rome testing lab denies ban

ROME (R) — Rome's sports drug-testing laboratory has not been suspended from carrying out tests by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), despite press reports it had failed to meet Olympic standards. "It appears there has been a misunderstanding. I can now confirm that the IOC-appointed laboratory in Rome is not barred from carrying out drug tests," IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier said. "The laboratory has merely been asked to tighten up the administrative side of the written reports on the analyses," she told Reuters by telephone from IOC headquarters in Lausanne. Recent press reports quoted IOC medical commission president Prince Alexandre De Merode as saying Rome was one of five centres suspended from its accredited list for four months until June.

Belgians sweep cycling classic

ROUBAIX, France (AP) — Belgian Jean-Marie Wampers won the 87th Paris-Roubaix cycling race Sunday and two other Belgians took second and third place in the day-long classic. Wampers, riding for Panasonic, beat out Dirk De Wolf in the final sprint of the 265.5-kilometre (165-mile) race. Edwig Van Hooydonck took third place. The three were among six riders who broke away from the pack about 60 kilometres (37 miles) before the finish. France's Laurent Fignon, two-time winner of the Tour De France and one of the favourites to win, abandoned the course at 230 kilometres (143 miles) after several punctured tyres and a fall. The race, which started north of Paris in Compiègne and continued under clear skies, is a grueling test.

Hawks pull out 108-100 win over Bulls

NEW YORK (AP) — A 3-point buzzer shot by Dominique Wilkins at the end of the third quarter and two baskets by Antoine Carr starting the fourth broke open a close game and sent the Atlanta Hawks to a 108-100 victory over the Chicago Bulls Sunday. Carr's baskets gave the Hawks an 89-79 lead. The Bulls pulled to within eight points 10 times in the fourth but never got any closer. The victory was the Hawks' sixth in seven games and moved them out of a tie with the Bulls for fourth place in the National Basketball Association's Central Division. The loss was the third straight for the Bulls, who were playing without two regulars, centre Bill Cartwright and forward Scottie Pippen. Cartwright was sitting out a one-game suspension for fighting and Pippen has a sinus infection. Michael Jordan's 40 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists and Sam Vincent's 22 points were not enough to make up for the absence of Cartwright and Pippen. Moses Malone led the Hawks 21 points and 13 rebounds. Wilkins had 20 points and Glenn Rivers 19. Malone and John Koncinski had 11 rebounds apiece. Gerald Wilkins scored 19 points, including New York's last four, and had a career-high 14 rebounds, leading the Knicks to a 94-92 victory over Washington.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1989

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mercury enters Taurus today where mental processes slow down. We will need to take a closer look. Expect some people to scrutinize facts and prefer extra time to think before decisions are made.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Stick with basic and routine activities. You may be dealing with stubborn attitudes that are selfish. Keep your own best interests in mind.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Current focus is curiously intellectual and more communicative than usual. You enjoy expanded personal relationships and short trips.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): It may be hard to keep dual interests separated, especially with relationships. You can lose it all when you play too many angles at once.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): The current cycle is magnetic, creative and stylish. A friend shows appreciation. Your judgment can be uncanny.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21): Planning for travel will help satisfy thoughts of wanderlust and distant places. Pass up a lucky cohort who wants to crash your social scene.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Renegotiate a recent agreement if you are unhappy with the results. Nail down the facts — get it in writing if there are any doubts left.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You run out of time when diversified activities are cut into too many small pieces. Transportation is a problem. Finances influence your choices.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Lunar aspects can have you daydreaming of romantic places. A family member may be unwilling to listen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Participation in a recent project has your prestige soaring. Your opposite would enjoy candlelight and music. Originality will make points.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Your style of performance gets the attention of VIP's. No rewards appear as yet, but you accumulate points for the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Creativity is strangled and originality stays dormant when you try to meet other people's standards.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): The financial picture brightens as well as your love for the dramatic. Some one takes special privileges at your expense.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE UNLUCKY OVERCALL

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 5 6
♥ 10 8 2
♦ J 6 4 2
♣ 9 8 4

EAST
♠ K Q 10 7
♥ J 9 5
♦ 7 4 3
♣ A K 5

WEST
♠ K Q 10 7
♥ J 9 5
♦ 7 4 3
♣ A K 5

EAST
♠ K Q 10 9 8 3
♥ J 9 5
♦ 7 4 3
♣ A K 5

SOUTH
♠ A 3 2
♥ A K Q 7 6
♦ 7
♣ A K Q 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 1♠ 2♥ 2♠
3♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

What a difference a lead makes. This hand is from the 1988 World Team Championship, played in Venice. The themes are standard in almost every bridge teacher's repertoire.

At about half the tables in the event, West overcalled with one spade. That's not a call we endorse, since it has no preemptive value and West is likely to be on opening lead in any event. And it had a strange

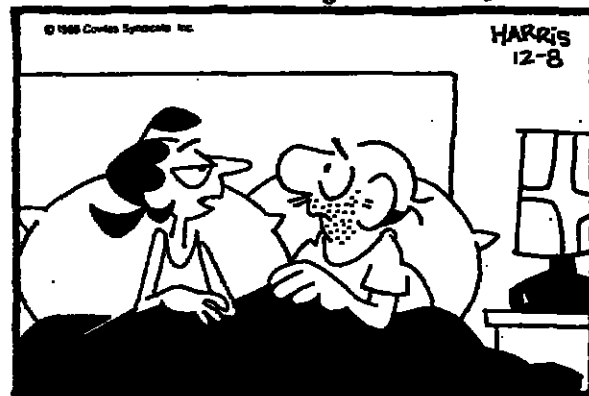
repercussion in the play. Against four hearts West led the king of spades. Declarer grabbed dummy's ace, cashed two rounds of trumps and then played off the high clubs. Although that suit did not split evenly, the defender with the long trump also held the fourth club, so declarer was able to ruff a club on the table. He exited with a diamond, and in the fulfillment of fate he regained the lead with a ruff to draw the last trump and claim his contract, losing only two spades and a diamond.

Where West did not overcall, East boldly interjected a lead-directing bid of two diamonds. Now, the lead against four hearts was ace and another diamond. Declarer ruffed and again drew two rounds of trumps before cashing the high clubs and trumping a club. But now he had no way to get to his hand to draw the last trump. As soon as East gained the lead he played diamonds, so West's jack of trumps was promoted to the winning trick.

Despite the lead of the ace of diamonds, one East-West pair failed to get their trump promotion and the contract succeeded. All this proves is that even world championship competitors have feet of clay.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Toss and turn! Toss and turn! After 8 hours of aerobic sleeping you should be a lot thinner."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SNALT
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

UNHAM
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

QUIETY
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

GALUPE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: LOWLY - SWISH GAUZY CAUGHT
Answer: "A piece of beef, and make it lean." — "WHICH WAY?"

THE Daily Crossword

by Joanna Wilson

ACROSS
1 Swindle
5 Del
10 Elderly
14 — brave
15 "The Republic"
16 Painful
17 Fly high
18 "The Chase"
19 Bargain sign
20 Angler's lure
21 Staggered
22 Facile
23 Builds a lawn
24 Desire
25 Tornado
26 Frenzied
34 A series
37 Cinema's
38 — podiatrist
40 Rotates
42 Map marks
43 Food and shelter
45 Adhesive
47 Play part
48 Dervish
49 Big people?
52 — Lie
53 Play the lead
54 Desert tree
57 Antward one
61 Olive genus
62 Author of "From the Terrace"
64 Before
65 dynamic
66 Iron money
68 In no way
69 Zola heroine
68 Fa e.g.
69 Oozing
70 Ger. river

DOWN
1 Talk back
2 Horse's hoof
3 Jol
4 Silas
5 Food control mechanism
6 Too shifty
7 Slaves
8 Indian
9 Woe
10 Tax man
11 Am
12 A Gardner
13 Legal paper
14 Political cartoonist
15 Emend
16 St. gas
17 Leather strip
18 Oz's "Tin Man"
19 Lazybones
20 Complete
21 Cheese
22 Musical signs
23 Above: prof.
24 Singing syllable
25 Water
26 Museum places
27 Portico
28 Dutch cheese
29 Pungent bulbs
30 Sophisticated
31 — throat
32 Niece
33 Miscellaneous
34 Tylin
35 Preserve
36 Guide
37 Coastal
38 Bird
39 Stadium
40 sound
41 "Haw"

World Table Tennis mens finals

Waldner becomes new champion

DORTMUND, West Germany (R) — Jan-Ove Waldner, Sweden's new world table tennis champion, enjoys gambling and spends hours in the casino.

But with victory looking a safe bet in Sunday's men's singles final against compatriot Jorgen Persson, Waldner almost lost his nerve.

The 23-year-old Swede seemed to be cruising to victory with a two-game lead and match-point at 20-19 in the third. But Persson saved the point and battled back to two games all to force a fifth and deciding game.

Faced with defeat in the final for a second time — the lost to Jiang Jialiang of China in the last world championships in 1987 — Waldner needed to recover his cool before he secured the title in the final game.

The Swede has taken risks all his life. He left school at 14 with few qualifications to concentrate on table tennis and during a period playing for West German club Saarbrücken he was a regular at the city casino's roulette table.

But the world number two admitted he thought he had blown his chance in the final. "I was a bit afraid I was going

to lose the match," he said. "But I managed to play well at the start of the fifth." Waldner's victory marked the end of China's eight-year men's singles reign.

Sweden also defeated the Chinese in the men's team final here and Waldner said he thought China's era of supremacy in the sport looked at an end.

But China took comfort in Qiao Hong, who earned them their sixth consecutive women's singles title when she beat North Korean Li Bun-Hui.

As faded star Jiang Jialiang slips quietly into retirement and the Chinese men lick their wounds after the world table tennis championships, the once-great nation's coaches will be forced to rebuild from scratch.

All three men's titles — singles, doubles and team — were snatched from Chinese hands in Dortmund by Europeans who have bridged what was once a vast gap.

China used to take their superiority in table tennis for granted but Sweden's Glenn Ost, who

coached his men to the team gold and Jan-Ove Waldner to singles triumph, believes Chinese coach Xu Shaofa has become too complacent.

"Maybe he has become too good friends with his players," said Ost, who was surprised that Xu stuck with three older but out-of-form players throughout most of the team event.

Ost, only five years older than his senior player Mikael Appelgren, did not allow sentimentality to colour his judgement. When Olympic bronze medalist Erik Lindh looked inconsistent in the team competition, he was dropped.

Xu could have learned from the Chinese women's trainer Ma Jing Bao, whose young and almost completely reshaped squad took the team gold, all the doubles medals and everything but silver in the singles.

When top women's seed Chen Jing, tired by a crowded playing schedule, faltered in the semifinals, newcomer Qiao Hong was ready to win the battle for the singles crown.

Xu had complained that China faced a shortage of up-and-coming talent but he was proved wrong by the younger men he left out of the important team

matches.

Yu Shentong and Ma Wenge played in only the first two rounds of the team competition.

But Yu became China's only medalist in the men's singles, with a bronze, and beat outgoing world champion Jiang and Lindh along the way.

Ma made his mark by knocking out European champions Appelgren in the third round and Xie Chaojie and Lin Zhigang ousted 1987 silver medalists Ilija Lupulesku and Zoran Primorac of Yugoslavia from the doubles.

Sweden were not the only nation waiting to pounce on the Chinese. Hosts West Germany won their first world gold thanks to doubles pair Joerg Roskopf and Steffen Fetzner who beat 1987 champions Chen Longcan and Wei Qingguang in the semifinals.

The steady exodus of talented players and coaches from China, who won six out of the seven medals on offer at the last three world championships, has helped to even out playing standards around the world.

Sweden's new hero Waldner, narrowly beaten by Jiang in the 1987 final, agreed. "All the players in the world are much closer to the Chinese now," he said.

Graf wins, maintains '89 record

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (AP) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf rolled over fourth-seeded Natalia Zvereva 6-1, 6-1 Sunday to win her third Family Circle Magazine Cup tennis tournament.

The world's no. 1 player, who defeated Zvereva 6-0, 6-0 in the French Open final last year, had nearly as easy a day Sunday, needing less than an hour to claim the first prize of \$60,000 on the clay courts at Sea Pines Racquet Club. Zvereva, of the Soviet Union, earned \$24,000.

The match was played under overcast conditions.

Graf said she never felt threatened by Zvereva, who upset second-seeded Martina Navratilova in Saturday.

"She can't really put me under pressure," Graf said. "She had some tough matches earlier, so maybe she was also tired."

"I was really in control all the time, except for maybe at the beginning of the second set," said Graf, who won her first professional title at the Family Circle in 1986. She also won the title in 1987.

Graf won the first two games but Zvereva, ranked no. 9 in the world, broke back to make it 2-1. But the West German Grand Slam winner broke Zvereva's service three times after that and easily held her own to win the set.

Zvereva, who turns 18 Thursday, won the opening game of the second set and took Graf of three deuce points in the second game before Graf served an ace even the set.

Zvereva made one last stand in the third game, extending Graf to four deuce points.

Agassi sends U.S. through

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Andre Agassi dispatched Yannick Noah, 6-3, 7-6, Sunday to put the United States within one match of sweeping the Davis Cup quarterfinals series against France.

Because the United States clinched the five-match series Saturday with a doubles win by Ken Flach and Robert Seguso, the two singles matches Sunday were reduced to the best-of-three sets.

In the final match, John McEnroe of the United States was scheduled to play Henri Leconte.

Agassi, who improved his Davis Cup record to 7-0, won the tiebreaker following the second set, 7-7, as Noah double-faulted on the deciding point. Before that, had three match points but couldn't convert.

The match spotlighted the powerful shots that are a trademark of Agassi's game at its best. After Agassi put away an approach shot to go ahead in the first set, 5-2, Noah came up to him during a changing break and asked a question along the lines of, "how did you do that?" Agassi responded with a quick demonstration swing.

The query came during a string of eight straight points won by Agassi, starting with three in a row to break Noah's serve for a 4-2 edge. After Noah lost the first two points on poor shots, Agassi took the game on a forehand passing shot.

Another eight-point streak put Agassi ahead, 2-0, in the second set. When Noah went to serve the next game, he was in sight of a poster raised by a fan saying, "Jesus loves Agassi," and he paused to the

cheers of the crowd for Agassi, a devout Christian.

No longer distracted, Noah won that game and eventually moved ahead, 5-2, to a pair of service breaks. During one stretch, Agassi lost seven consecutive points on his serve.

Agassi regained form to knot the score at 5-5, and the players each won their next service games, forcing the tiebreaker.

The match was a rematch of one three weeks ago when Noah beat Agassi, 7-6, 6-4, in a tournament at Indian Wells, California.

Entering the Davis Cup competition, Agassi held the no. 5 ranking in the world. He opened cup play with a win over Leconte, 6-1, 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.

It was the third loss of the series for Noah, rated 13th. He fell to McEnroe, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, in singles. In doubles, where he teamed with Guy Forget, the French were defeated by Flach and Seguso, 6-2, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6.

The United States will face West Germany in the semifinals, July 21-23, in West Germany. The defending champions advanced from the quarterfinals Sunday by topping Czechoslovakia, 3-2, as Boris Becker prevailed in the final match.

Sweden 3, Austria 2

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Sweden advanced to the Davis Cup World Group semifinals Sunday by beating Austria 3-2.

Sweden took an unbeatable 3-1 lead when Stefan Edberg overpowered Horst Skoff 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.

In the second singles Austria's Alexander Antonitsch

surprisingly beat Mats Wilander 6-3, 7-5.

In the semifinals, Sweden meets Yugoslavia, which defeated Spain in split, Yugoslavia, Saturday.

Edberg only took 1 hour and 23 minutes to subdue the Austrian, who looked increasingly defenceless as the match wore on.

Edberg never was in trouble and did not seem to over-exert himself as he controlled the match throughout.

Skoff, who upset Mats Wilander Friday in a marathon lasting more than 6 hours and also played in the doubles Saturday, was too tired to put up any meaningful resistance.

In the third set, the Austrian was visibly exhausted and seemed to be glad that it all would be over soon.

"I played a near perfect game today," Edberg said and those who watched the Swede agreed.

Skoff was helpless against Edberg's powerful serve and the Austrian also could not handle Edberg's sharp returns. Edberg scored his third victory over Skoff in six weeks.

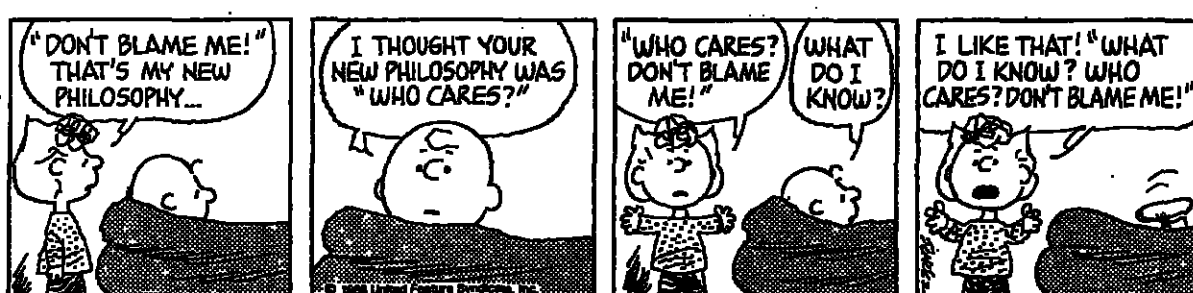
Czechs 2, Germans 2

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Carl-Uwe Steeb beat Karel Novacek 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to enable defending champion West Germany to tie Czechoslovakia 2-2 in their Davis Cup world group quarterfinal series Sunday.

In the deciding singles, Boris Becker of West Germany played Czechoslovakia's Milan Srejber.

Steeb took control early by breaking Novacek in the fourth game of the first set for a 3-1 lead.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Moves under way for SWAPO pullout

Calm reported in Namibian bush war

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — Police reported calm in the northern Namibian bush for the second day Monday, and said they were waiting to see whether nationalist fighters obey orders to leave the country under United Nations escort.

U.N. peacekeeping began setting up assembly points for fighters of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) in the bushlands under the agreement to end eight days of fighting in which almost 300 people died.

The SWAPO guerrillas were due to withdraw to Angola after fierce battles with South African-led troops.

"We have started work... we will do our damndest to be ready by noon tomorrow," said Finnish diplomat Martti Ahtisaari, head of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group for Namibia (UNTAG).

He said nine assembly points would be set up on and near the northern border, each manned by

15 armed UNTAG members as well as South African and Angolan officials.

From there, guerrillas would be flown or driven to camps at least 150 kilometres inside Angola, north of the 16th parallel, where they would remain under UNTAG supervision for a minimum of six weeks.

Up to 1,900 SWAPO guerrillas are set to withdraw to Angola over the next 10 days in terms of an agreement Sunday between Cuba, Angola and South Africa.

The agreement was reached at emergency talks to end eight days of border war between Namibia's South African-led security forces and SWAPO fighters who crossed from Angola in defiance of a

U.N.-sponsored ceasefire. At least 290 people died in the clashes, which began as a 12-month U.N. plan for Namibia's independence went into effect April 1.

The withdrawal agreement was similar to a call issued hours earlier in Angola by San Nujoma, SWAPO's exiled leader, for the guerrillas to leave Namibia.

Asked whether Namibian paramilitary police were refraining from contacts with SWAPO units Monday, a police spokesman replied: "It all depends. There has been no official ceasefire from SWAPO so far."

His comment appeared to reflect the wariness of police commanders operating in difficult bush conditions, and not a policy difference over the withdrawal agreement. Both South African and U.N. officials were to verify the departure of SWAPO guerrillas.

Sakharov nominated to new legislature

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet human rights activist Andrei Sakharov was nominated Monday for a seat in the revamped Soviet parliament by the Academy of Sciences, which had rejected him just three months ago.

Sakharov was on a list of 27 candidates that received the backing of the academy's presidium after it failed last month to fill the 20 seats set aside for it in parliament.

Independent historian Roy Medvedev and an agriculture reformer who stresses the need to boost grain production won seats in the new Soviet legislature, officials reports said.

In the first round March 26, voters rejected at least 45 government and Communist Party leaders in their bids for seats in the new Congress of People's Deputies.

Medvedev, whose studies of Stalinism were unpublished in the Soviet Union until recently, won 52.3 per cent of the vote Sunday in his race in Moscow's Voroshilov district against Ksenya Razumova, head of an atomic research laboratory, district election officials said.

The official TASS news agency said writer Yuri Chernichenko also won election in his race against philosophy Professor Gennady K. Ashin. It did not give figures.

Chernichenko was a supporter of former Moscow Communist Party boss Boris N. Yeltsin's maverick candidacy and ran on a platform urging wide-ranging agricultural reform. At an election rally a week before the election, he said the Soviet Union must turn from an importer to an exporter of grain.

TASS said 67.1 per cent of the voters took part in balloting in Moscow, far below the level of about 90 per cent who participated March 26 in the first contested national elections in the Soviet Union in 71 years.

Among the other winners Sunday were Yuri Skokov, director of the Kvant scientific conglomerate, who defeated Pyotr Surov in central Moscow's Sverdlovsk district.

Oslo seeks Soviet answers on sunken nuclear submarine

OSLO (AP) — Norway prepared a list of questions Monday to ask the Soviet Union about the nuclear reactors aboard the Soviet submarine that sank in the Norwegian Sea.

"We are not trying to pry into their military secrets, but we are concerned about other circumstances of safety," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Sigrid Romundset.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said 42 seamen were killed and 27 survived when the ship caught fire and sank Friday 190 kilometres southwest of Norway's Bear Island and 500 kilometres west of the Norwegian coast.

TASS said the ship was armed

with two nuclear-tipped torpedoes, but they were designed to prevent radiation leaks even under the intense pressure of deep water.

Ten questions on the size and type of the reactors and their security systems were prepared by Norway's Committee on Radiation Accidents, a government body created after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion in the Soviet Union.

Romundset said the questions were to be sent to Moscow Monday through diplomatic channels.

Norwegian scientists declared the accident zone free of abnormal radiation on the surface and said they were taking sub-surface

measurements to see if the reactors leaked when the ship sank.

"We want more information just to be sure. The more information we get, the more it seems there is an extremely small risk of radioactive contamination," said Anne Alvik, chairwoman of the Radiation Accident Committee.

The institute for radiation protection complained Monday that the Defence Ministry failed to inform it about the accident, which it learned about from news broadcasts on Norwegian radio.

"It is scandalous that we weren't informed," said the institute's head, Johan Baarli.

Vienna hospital killings exposed after chance remark over wine

VIENNA (R) — A chance remark in a Vienna wine bar led to a group of nurses in one of the city's oldest hospitals confessing to killing nearly 50 elderly patients to relieve the victims' suffering and lighten their own work load.

Austrian police confirmed Monday that a conversation between a doctor and a nurse at Vienna's Lainz Hospital over a glass of wine alerted the doctor to what has been described as the biggest case of its kind in European history.

Close observation of the wards by worried doctors revealed that the number of deaths in the Inter-

nal Medicine Clinic was always higher when certain nurses were doing a night shift.

Police have so far detained four nurses who they say have confessed to killing 49 patients, all aged over 75, since 1983.

They have not ruled out the possibility of further arrests.

The patients were killed by injecting them with overdoses of medicine, including insulin usually used to treat diabetes, or by forcing water into their lungs to suffocate them, police said.

"This is the largest number of hospital killings ever in Europe," Vienna Police Chief Guenther Boegli told a weekend news con-

ference.

According to police the four nurses, aged between 27 and 50, said they started the killings originally out of pity for the suffering of elderly and terminally ill patients.

However as they continued some patients were killed because they had become a nuisance, police said. They confirmed that a number of victims were not terminally ill and could have been cured.

One of the accused said the nurses were chronically overworked, with two caring for 30 elderly patients.

Sri Lanka declares truce, offers amnesty to all rebels

COLOMBO (AP) — The government Monday named 228 centres it would set up across the country to receive Sinhalese and Tamil militants willing to give up arms during a weeklong ceasefire and amnesty ordered by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The reception centres will be located in schools, Buddhist temples, government offices and army camps across the country, and will be manned by civilians, a senior official said.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said the cease-fire would begin Wednesday and the military would suspend special operations launched against militants.

Troops would remain on alert to avert violence during the period, Wijeratne said.

Wijeratne, who is also deputy

defence minister, said President Premadasa announced the suspension of military activities and establishment of reception centres for militants surrendering arms April 2.

According to Wijeratne, 104 militants surrendered before the centres were set up.

The government also will provide amnesty to deserters from the armed forces, Wijeratne said.

In addition to those persons involved in acts of violence and sabotage, all deserters of the armed forces may also give themselves up," he said.

He said those who gave themselves up at 228 "reception centres" across the island would be guided "to enter the normal, social, economic and political activities of the country."

They would be protected, fed,

clothed and trained for employment, the minister told a news conference.

He said the peace package coincided with new year celebrations among Sri Lanka's 12 million Sinhalese and two million Tamils Thursday and Friday.

"This is a period of goodwill and friendship for the Sinhalese and Tamils," he said.

Defence Ministry sources said there were at least 1,500 army deserters, many of whom have turned militant and joined forces with the Marxist Sinhalese extremists of the People's Liberation Front.

Sinhalese militants have been trying since July 1987 to bring down the government, saying a peace accord aimed at ending a Tamil insurgency conceded too much to the minority community.

Valdez oil breaks as army begins cleanup

VALDEZ, Alaska (AP) — Military jets flew skimmers, booms, and beach landing craft into Alaska Sunday, and commanders issued a Pacific-wide call for more equipment to fight the nation's worst oil spill.

Kodiak, the nation's richest fishing port, prepared for the onslaught of oil by putting out log booms. But the coast guard said the leading edge of the spill, 97 kilometres away, retreated a bit and began breaking up into tar balls and sinking.

"That's good news," said Bill Lamoreaux, the state's on-scene coordinator.

The tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef near here March 24, spilling 38.2 million litres of crude into Pristine Prince William Sound. The oil has spread into the Gulf of Alaska and fouled some of the many islands in the region.

On Friday, President George Bush said he would send the military to help with the cleanup. Exxon Corporation, which has been accused of moving too slowly to contain the spill, will continue to provide materials, manpower and money.

Meanwhile, officials said a 12-

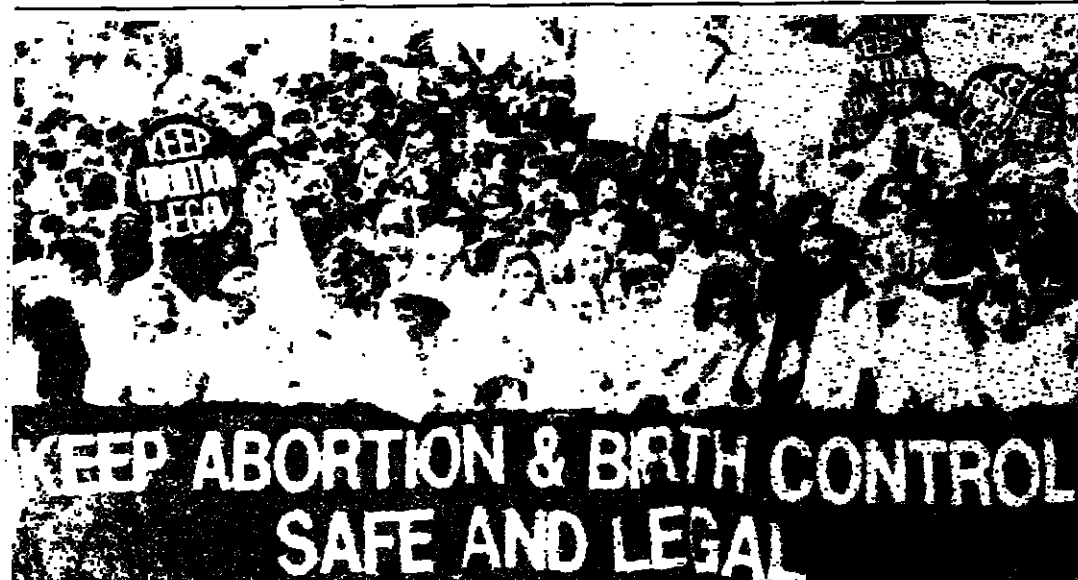
metre gray whale was found dead in an oil-fouled area. Wildlife experts said they hadn't determined how it died. The spill already has killed thousands of other animals.

Exxon also said Sunday it was beginning to reimburse fishermen for losses from the cancellation of the herring season and had paid \$250,000 to cover expenses for fishing boats attacking the spill on their own.

Kodiak last year produced a fish catch worth \$166 million. About \$12 million worth of herring are taken in a typical season, which typically lasts less than a day at spawning time.

Coast guard spokesman Rick Meidt said an air force general made a tour of the area and sent a call to bases around the Pacific to find out what was available and what the estimated time of arrival in Valdez would be.

The coast guard's Pacific commander, Vice Admiral Clyde Robbins, was joining the federal effort. Other experts dispatched by the Defence Department surveyed the cleanup, and with the help of the military, cleanup gear poured into Valdez.



More than 300,000 demonstrators, led by Hollywood stars, march in Washington D.C., Sunday to support women's right to abortion

Thousands demand abortion right

WASHINGTON (R) — In one of the biggest political demonstrations in U.S. history, more than 300,000 boisterous, banner-waving demonstrators marched on Washington Sunday for a woman's right to have an abortion.

An ocean of banner-waving protesters wound their way in a three-kilometre march from the Washington Monument to the Capitol building, vowing never to give up their right to a legal abortion.

At a rally on the Capitol steps, they heard women's leaders. Hol-

lywood stars and politicians rail against a case before the Supreme Court that could undermine a woman's right to have an abortion.

Feminist leaders said the size of the crowd, originally estimated at less than 150,000 but said by police to number 300,000, showed a major resurgence in the American women's movement. Its size equalled that of the major anti-Vietnam war protests in the 1960s.

Wearing all white, like the turn of the century suffragettes who fought for women's right to vote,

the marchers wanted to send a message to the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the landmark 1973 Roe Vs. Wade case that made abortion legal.

Pro-abortion activists fear a key case now before the high court could return to states the right to limit abortions.

On April 25 the Supreme Court begins deliberating the case of Webster Vs. Reproductive Health Services which has challenged the constitutionality of a Missouri law that barred abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

U.S., Greece resume talks on bases but no accord expected

ATHENS (AP) — The 16th round of talks on the future of U.S. military installations in Greece started Monday with no agreement expected.

The previous round of negotiations aimed at a defence and economic cooperation agreement (DECA) held in Washington D.C. last month, ended inconclusively as both sides refused to budge from their positions.

The talks held at the Foreign Ministry are not expected to last longer than three days and will mainly deal with a preamble to a new agreement.

Greece's permanent ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Christos Zacharakis, and U.S. Ambassador Alan Flanigan, from the State Department, head their respective delegations.

Government spokesman Sotiris Costopoulos summed up the situation after the 14th round of negotiations in Athens two

months ago as containing "differences of opinion between the two sides but no deadlock."

The Greeks seek American assurances that it will play a key role in solving outstanding differences with its neighbour and NATO ally, Turkey.

Another sticking point is that the Greeks want a support airbase adjacent to Athens international airport closed, even if agreement is reached.

In previous contacts, American negotiators have told the Greeks they don't want to involve regional disputes in the bilateral talks and that Hellinikon airbase is an integral part of their overall operations in Greece.

Hellinikon airbase is used by aircraft to shadow movements of the Soviet Union's fleet in the Mediterranean.

Greece and Turkey have long-standing differences over seabed mineral rights, military control of the Aegean Sea and the war-divided eastern Mediterranean is-

land of Cyprus.

The five-year DECA agreement expired Dec. 20. Under the old accord signed in 1983, the U.S. has 17 months either to dismantle its bases or initial a new contract.

Four major installations are in question: Hellinikon airbase, a navy communications station in Nea Makri, 32 kilometres south-east of the Greek capital, an airforce communications installation on the eastern tip of the southern Aegean island of Crete and a support base for the 6th fleet on the western end of the same island.

Western diplomatic sources believe that no agreement will be reached before scheduled June 18 general elections "in order to avoid it becoming a pre-electoral issue."

"New ground will have to be broken with the next government," said a diplomat familiar with details of the talks who asked for anonymity.



A sea otter, its belly coated with crude, is one of thousands of marine animals that fell victim to the Valdez oil spill

With no charm, an ancient profession is dying

By Dilip Ganguly
Associated Press

MOLARBAND, India — The charm is going out of the snake charming business, and the remaining practitioners are starting to vanish from the land where their ancient art was born.

Hunger haunts them. Police chase them. Ecologists despise them. People on the street no longer care for them.

"Snake charming is no more a paying profession," said 90-year-old Sunder Nath. "Our children are not interested in snake charming any more. There is not enough money. Not enough charm left."

"Our children want to become clerks, bus drivers, even policemen, but not snake charmers," said Nath, who walks with the help of a stick but still holds roadside shows.

There are about a half-million snake charmers left in India, and a generation from now there are likely to be far fewer. Many now supplement their snake charming income by collecting snake venom for laboratories and playing their unique musical instrument at marriage festivals.

Molarband, about 35 kilometres south of New Delhi, is one of two villages in India exclusively inhabited by snake charmers. The other is in the east Indian state of Orissa.

About 1,500 snake charmers live in Molarband in mud-and-stone homes. Every home has 10 to 15 snakes.

"Gone are the days when our children lived with snakes, grew with snakes... now they are going to schools to learn

English," said Prabhu Nath, 50, whose two children attend a government-run school that teaches general subjects not far from Molarband.

All snake charmers take the family name of Nath from their guru and saint, Gorak Nath, who they say lived about 500 years ago.

"When I grow up I would like to become a bus driver," said 15-year-old Rajpal Nath. "My friends tell me that snake charming is nothing but another form of begging. I don't want to be called a beggar."

"There is no value in our fathers' work. We are looked down by everyone," added 14-year-old Rameshchandra Nath, who aspires to become a bank clerk.

The school near Molarband has 1,500 students. About 250 are from families of snake

charmers, hoping to prepare themselves for other professions.

"This is remarkable. Ten years back, we hardly had any student from the snake charmers' families," said school headmaster Ram Lal Longia. There was little need for snake charmers' children to go to school if they wanted to be charmers themselves.

"There are no new charmers joining the clan. What we have is the old stock," said Komollesh Dev, who has studied the life of the snake charmers in Molarband.

"There was a time when snake charmers were part of Indian life. They provided the best and cheapest entertainment," said Dev, who spent months with the snake charmers. Television and other entertainment now have a bigger attraction for Indians, leaving

little interest in snake charmers. "They are remembered only once a year during the snake festival," Dev said.

Every year on "Nag Panchmi," or snake god festival day, Hindus pray to snakes and feed them. The brave among them wear snakes around their necks, and some even pose with them for photographs.

Women pray to snakes to give them sons. "Only on that day we are in great demand," Sambhu Nath said. "We offer our snakes for hire and make good money. But it is only a one-day bright sunshine in a year."

A team of two snake charmers on the average makes about 75 rupees (\$5) a day.

"From this amount we bribe the police, feed our snakes and run our families," Sambhu Nath said.

But there is no business dur-

ing monsoon and parts of India's blistering summer.

"More and more snake charmers are forming groups to offer entertainment during marriages," Sambhu Nath said. The groups are called "been parties," after the unique musical instrument that the charmers play in India. The instrument, made of dried white gourd and fitted with long bamboo flute, is used to mesmerise the snake with its motion.

The Indian Wildlife Act prohibits the possession, sale or purchase of certain species of animals and reptiles. Police often harass snake charmers if they are found in possession of banned species of snakes.

"This is our big problem," said Prabhu Nath, 52, the last in his family to opt for snake charming.

In India, there are 240 spe-

cies of snakes living in land and water. Trade is banned in 30 species.

The ban covers the king cobra, the most prized possession of a snake charmer. "You can't hold a show with rat snake. It ought to be a king cobra or at least a cobra... only then people are interested," Prabhu Nath said.

"First, it is difficult to find a cobra because forests are vanishing, and when we find one, we can't keep it forever as it is against our tradition," said Prabhu Nath.

When a snake charmer decides to catch a snake, he is required to perform a rite and pledge that he will release the snake within a year.

"This was the dictate of Baba Gorak Nath, and every snake charmer follows the order very strictly," Prabhu Nath said.

COLUMN

Buy, don't steal traffic signs

SHARON, Massachusetts (AP) — The town of Sharon, weary of replacing stolen traffic signs, has decided to put them up for sale. "If we couldn't find them, people might choose to buy them rather than requisition them at midnight," said public works superintendent John Sulik. Sulik blames teenagers for the epidemic of disappearing signs. Despite efforts to put them high enough to be out of reach, more than 70 signs were stolen last year, costing the town more than \$3,000, he said. Sharon, southwest of Boston, makes its own street signs and will charge buyers \$20 each. The town buys its traffic signs from a Boston company and will sell the popular stop signs for \$27 and speed limit signs for \$20, Sulik said.

'Thou shalt not park'

CRAWLEY, England (R) — A Roman Catholic priest has written an 11th commandment — "Thou shalt not even think of parking here." The gospel according to Father Matthew McInerney is emblazoned on a notice board outside his church in Crawley, southern England. The new edict has yet to strike fear in motorists who still park in front of the church, blocking funeral hearses. "Like the other 10 commandments, it is ignored," McInerney complained to reporters Sunday — after a thief broke the Eighth Commandment and stole another notice board inside the church.

'Polar capsule' ends up on Irish coast

NEW YORK (AP) — A plastic cylinder left at the North Pole three years ago washed up on a beach in Ireland and was discovered by a carpenter during an afternoon stroll, a sponsor of the polar expedition has announced. The bright orange "polar capsule," tossed behind a ridge of ice at the pole during a 1986 dog-sled expedition, was filled with artifacts of the expedition. It was found Feb. 2 along the Atlantic Ocean beach near Bloody Foreland Point in County Donegal, the Du Pont Company said in a news release. Peadar Gallagher, 62, who found the cylinder, will receive a \$5,000 reward from Du Pont, a major sponsor of the expedition led by Will Steger of Minnesota.

Oldest Japanese turns 113

TOKYO (AP) — Mitsui Fujisawa, Japan's oldest person, marked her 113th birthday Sunday in a hospital where she has been under treatment since February for neuralgia. Her daughter, Midori Sato, 71, said Mrs. Fujisawa was "all right" except for her neuralgia, and can walk unaided, but has some trouble hearing. Officials of Suwa Kyoritsu hospital in Nagano, in north-central Japan, said nurses greeted Mrs. Fujisawa on her birthday, but there was no special celebration. Commenting on her mother's longevity, Mrs. Sato told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that she liked to take walks and tried not to eat too much.

Hotel shop held up

HONG KONG (AP) — Three robbers held up a shop in a hotel Sunday and escaped with jewelry worth 10 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.28 million), police reported. Police said the robbers, two of them armed with pistols, burst into the shop at the Hyatt Hotel and forced the six employees and two Japanese women shoppers to lie on the floor. The robbers then snatched a quantity of jewelry from a showcase and escaped on foot.

Global weather

(major world cities)

		MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	09	48	58	Cloudy
ATHENS	10	50	77	Clear
BAIRN	18	64	82	Clear
BANGKOK	26	79	95	Clear
Buenos Aires	15	69	73	Rain
Cairo	20	68	94	Clear
CHICAGO	08	24	35	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	02	36	08	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	08	48	61	Clear
GENEVA	03	37	57	Cloudy
HONG KONG	19	68	73	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	06	48	70	Clear
LONDON	10	50	74	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	16	61	75	Clear
MADRID	07	45	55	Clear
MECCA	22	72	95	Cloudy
MANILA	21	70	81	Cloudy
MONTREAL	07	44	72	Cloudy
MOSCOW	01	34	54	Clear
NEW DELHI	20	68	97	Clear
NEW YORK	08	43	55	Cloudy
PARIS	10	50	76	Cloudy
ROME	08	43	71	Clear
TOKYO	15	58	84	Cloudy
VIENNA	06	43	58	Clear